

Advisory Board –East Central

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 4:30 – 6:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM –MIDTOWN SQ

MEETING CALLED BY	Beth Schultz
MEMBER PRESENT	Beth Schultz, Ernie Watson, Brenda Hommerding, Linda Hinrickson, Michele Isham (MCDHH Representative), Emily Smith-Lundberg
MEMBERS ABSENT	Rebecca Crowell, Jody Gertken Teter, JoLynn Larson
STAFF PRESENT	Rich Diedrichsen, Diane Leonard
GUEST SPEAKERS	Rubin Latz
GUEST	
NOTE TAKER	Rich Diedrichsen

Agenda topics

BETH SCHULTZ

DISCUSSION	Beth Schultz, the chairperson, began the meeting with the reading of the minutes. A motion was submitted to accept the minutes as written, a second was made, the minutes stay as written. The agenda, Beth asked if there were any additions, none presented and the meeting began.
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REGIONAL UPDATES

RICH DIEDRICHSEN AND DIANE LEONARD

DISCUSSION	<p>Rich handed out the DHHSD priorities for 2009-2010 sheet produced by DHHSD. He noted that in spite of the un-allotment talks, our budget for the regional office is pretty much the same as last year. He also noted that there is no promise that this cannot/will not change before the end of the fiscal year, but we have had downturn times in the past and continued through them. He noted that we are currently without an Office Admin position, but this was not due to un-allotment or budget cuts and we plan to fill the position when possible.</p> <p>Contract services were cut 2.58% due to un-allotment but we are continuing to serve all people on the Deaf Mentor and Deaf Blind Consumer Directed Program who had existing plans. We do not have a waiting list for the Deaf Mentor program at this time in the central regions. All other contract services such as the emergency advocacy program continue to exist. In addition, there have been no changes in the Mental Health or the TED programs. In fact, TED is expanding to wireless devices.</p> <p>The committee for the Parent Program (SNAPS) will meet next week next week to form plans and activities for 2009-2010. The ASL film last fall realized a profit and this gives the program some operating funds for now. There is hope to have another film Nov. 20 in St. Cloud to raise funds to support other efforts. The title of the film to be announced</p> <p>Diane mentioned the change in fiscal agent for the DMP and DBCDP programs. This has created a temporary situation of additional work for the consultants as they have to re-write plans and get vendor forms completed before services can resume. Diane has been working with the St. Cloud ILICIL Disability Awareness Task Force, and they have two activities planned for the near future; a captioned film related to mental illness on September 30 at the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud (tickets \$5.00 and includes meal discount - see back of tickets - on Wendy's, House of Pizza, Perkins, Green Mill, etc). The group is also sponsoring a Celebration of Abilities event on November 2 in St. Cloud.</p> <p>October 3 DHHSD is co-sponsoring a "Teens and Technology workshop in St. Cloud." Volunteers of American speakers will focus on available technology and the dangers such as "Sexting" and the need to be aware of personal and privacy protections when using computers and the internet.</p> <p>The next all day training in the area is October 29 2009 Pine City (brochures handed out) and St. Cloud in the spring 2010. Advisory council might need to replace Jody if she does not want to continue for other term, and we need a chairperson, since Beth has now served two terms and must rotate off.</p>
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MCDHH REPPORT

MICHELLE ISHAM

DISCUSSION	<p>Michelle gave out a copy of the MCDHH work plan for 2009-2010. They are trying to do a lot with education this year. They also had a speaker on census of 2010. The commission plans to focus on the census like they with the "Get Out to Vote (GOTV) effort. She gave us each a handout on Census. The commission amended their by-laws to say that when someone's appointment ends they can continue to serve on the commission until a replacement has been appointed.</p> <p>Handouts given</p>
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GUEST SPEAKER FROM VRS-DEED

RUBIN LATZ

DISCUSSION	<p>Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS): Rubin Latz announced that the State Rehab Council will hold an open forum in Willmar September 25, from 9:00-6:00. They are sponsoring a Disability Mentoring Day in Duluth and a flyer will be sent out soon.</p> <p>DEED has created a new position call a Rapid Response Team (really the only person in DEED on the team is Rubin). He explained concept; a new opportunity to serve people who may not be currently engaged with VRS. The main goal is Job Retention. This is a state wide effort and aimed at getting more VRS services to individuals, employers, families, etc. The program is collaboration between DHHS and VRS. This concept originated when the directors of VRS and DHHS met and noted that both programs serve about the same number of people with employment related issues annually – but in different ways. The goal is join efforts to help people achieve employment goals. FAQ sheet given out, but Rubin warned that this sheet is not final, and asked that it not be distributed. Brenda asked if there was an age limit for VRS. Rubin noted that there is no specific age limit in policy, but generally they serve people in employment age (13- 64). This is fluid but most likely people come into the program when they are in their sophomore-junior years of high school and until they reach retirement age. The service concept of the Rapid Response Team is that DHHS/VRS as a team would respond to calls assess the needs of the individual and employer and decide to refer or intervene.</p>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p>Up coming event</p> <p>Brenda announced that the parent guide program has had some staff changes on the guide level. Fall training will be held this weekend. The program may also redefine central region to get some help for Brenda (too much travel). They are working on a PSA with MCDHH. They have a new effort called ECHO (emergency community health outreach) for un-reached families and information can be found at www.MN.channel.org/ECHO. Brenda is also working with Diane on SNAPS committee</p> <p>Emily noted some up-coming retreats Oct 9-11 for KODA Family Retreat (Deaf Parents with hearing children); November 13-15 for Hearing Families with deaf children - ASL and there will be more for next year- information to follow.</p> <p>Next meeting date – January 19, 2010 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Diane gave thanks to Beth for her two-years of work as chairperson.</p> <p>Motion to adjourn at 5:46 p.m.</p>
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ALL

DISCUSSION	
CONCLUSIONS	

MEETING CLOSED	Meeting ended at 6:03 PM.
NEXT MEETING	The next advisory board meeting will be September 22, 2009.
REQUESTS MADE	Members asked to have Curt Micka's email address included in the minutes. His email address is: curt.micka@state.mn.us