

East Central DHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

September 30, 2014

Meeting Time: 4:30 – 6:00

Meeting Location – Benton/Stearns Education Building, Sartell

Chairperson: Brenda Hommerding

Present: Brenda Hommerding, Kathy Fischer, Melinda Brown, Jean Euteneuer, and Michele Isham

Absent – Philippe Gallant, Emily Smith – Lundberg, Rosemond Owens, Nona Hendrickson, and Rich Diedrichsen

Staff: Diane Leonard, Christina Costello (Note taker), Karen Saltz, and Anne Janckila (interpreting)

Also, interpreting: Judy Leach

Guest Speakers: Pam Nygren Wellumson, and Jon Ainsworth

Call to Order –

Meeting Minute from May 27, 2014 – approved.

MCDHH Report, Michele Isham:

- New person-hired Anna Paulson, collaborative Education.
- DHH teacher's conference in April. Hands & Voices will be involved.
- Funding cuts for DHH Services - Cut from 4 to 2 meetings. MCDHH will help reimburse for AC members' mileage. Diane has a reimbursement form.
- Age-related hearing loss, involved with assisted living facilities. Diane informed that we will have a new AC member representing from a local aging agency.
- increase hiring government employees with disabilities
- MCDHH increases videos for website to explain their services
- Emory Dively doing voter's outreach to encourage registered voters.
- Want to see if Mary Hartnett comes to speak in our AC meeting in January 2015.

Rich Diedrichsen's Report (via email):

- Touch base on DHHS Budget cuts. Our numbers are down, but we help a lot of people.
- David Rosenthal indicated to us that there is hope we will receive some positive budget news after October 1.
- Successful interpreter workshop with Nigel Howard in end of June.
- DeafBlind Consumer Directed Plans going well.
- DHHSD co-sponsored a Deaf Culture Salon event on Arts and the Deaf Community with ASLIS through a video conferencing at Central Lakes College. Rich attended this event. It went very well.

Diane Leonard's Report

AC Membership: 4 of our AC members, Kathy Fischer – 3 years, Nona Henrichsen – 3 years, Emily Smith-Lunberg – 6 years, and Philippe Gallant – 3 years, will end their memberships at end of December 2014. One of our AC members, Jean Euteneuer, accepted to stay for another term. AC members can stay for a limit of two 3-year terms.

We have three new AC members, who are father of child with hearing loss, a provider from a local Aging service, and a representative from interpreting community will join us in January 2015. I am waiting to hear from one more person. Michele Isham, representing MCDHH, and Brenda Hommerding, representing Hands & Voices, can stay with us indefinitely because they have some roles with DHHS. Brenda Hommerding will finish her second one-year term as a chairperson. Michele Isham accepted a new chairperson, starting January 2015.

Guest Speakers: ALIS – Pam and Jonathon

Pam and Jonathon discussed a new contract grant from DHHSD. They will research interpreting issues after checking with the communities. They did demo Video Remote Interpreting, with a hope to change user's attitude from being scared of new video technology. They did a successful pilot webcast (video conferencing) of Deaf Salon on Arts and Deaf Community in Brainerd. They plan to have another one on for the Deaf Prison sometime later this year. They manage budgets for AA/NA, and funeral interpreting costs and referrals.

Announcements or Information sharing

Kathy Fischer – VR service assessment process, new requirements: waiting list now if 1 or 2 criteria), if more than 2 barriers they will accept the client right away. It does impact DHH barriers.

Brenda Hommerding – SNAPS: Popsicle in the Park in Monticello in June of 2014.

Winter Snowflake Party – December 13, 2014

We will have Deaf Magician performing at our party, as well as, Santa and Elves. Same location as last year. Technology session will be provided. It is sponsored by St. Cloud Sertoma Club, Socialization, Networking, Advocacy, and Parent Support (SNAPS), DHHS, Keystone Interpreting Solutions, MN Hands & Voices, Region 5 & 7 DHH teachers, SCSU: Communication Disorders, and St. Cloud Deaf Club. Flyer will be sent out soon.

Parent Mentor Training on Oct 7 & 8, monthly teleconference last Sunday before Super Bowl – St. Louis Park – roller-skating

Next Meeting will be on January 27 at same location.

