

DHHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 27, 2015

4:30-6:00pm

Meeting Facilitator: Michele Isham

Notetaker:

Interpreters: Anne Janckila and two interns

***Welcome**

***Introduction of new members**

***Additions/Corrections to agenda and approval of minutes** – see minutes from September 2014

***MCDHH Report** – Michele Isham

*March 4
Legislation Day*

***Regional Update**

***Rich**

***Diane - East Central Regional Report**

***Announcements or Information sharing** – All

***Adjournment**

Next Meeting Dates: Tuesday May 26, 2015

Tuesday September 29, 2015

Both meetings will be held at Benton Stearns Education District 517 2nd St. S. Sartell

MINUTES; EAST CENTRAL DHHSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 27, 2014

Members Present: Mary Bauer, Melinda Brown, Jean Euteneuer, Shane Grom, Brenda Hommerding, Michelle Isham (Chairperson), Judy Leach, Rosemond Owens, and Gene Wyttenback. Absent: None

Staff: Christina Costello, Rich Diedrichsen, Diane Leonard, Anne Janckila, and Nicole and Danielle, interpreter Interns)

Meeting was called to order by Michelle Isham, and introductions were made because we have new members. New: Mary Bauer, Central MN Council on Aging; Shane Grom, Deaf Adult; Judy Leach, Interpreter in Community, Gene Wyttenback, Parent of child with hearing loss. Returning members: Melinda Brown, Therapist for D/HH/DB children with Volunteers of American (VOA); Jean Euteneuer, Adult with hearing loss; Brenda Hommerding, Parent Guide with MN Hands and Voices; Michelle Isham, teacher of Deaf/Hard-of Hearing with Benton-Sterns Educational Coop; Rosemond Owens, Coordinator of access for people with Language/Cultural Diversity at Centra-Care.

Minutes of November 2014 meeting were reviewed for additions of corrects. None were noted and the minutes were approved as printed.

MCDHH Report: Michelle began her report with a brief background on the commission and their work. She then noted that her second term as commission representative East Central MN has ended. By law she cannot be appointed for a third term until she has been off the commission for one year. However, since we do not have a representative appointed for the region, her position was extended for six months. She explained her role and let the members know that we are seeking a replacement from the Advisory Committee members.

Michelle reported that the commission is currently in the process of re-organization, and one of the goals is to hire and Assistant Director to assist Mary Hartnett because the workload, especially during the Legislative session, is very overwhelming. The commission recently completed their "five-year plan" for 2015 on. The key focuses for the commission for the next five years will be; Work to improve services for people who are Deaf Blind, The needs of people with age-related hearing loss, Sustainable funding for DHHSD, and Continued improvement of teacher of D/HH communication requirements. There was also discussion on the new format for the DHS/DHHSD website. The URL was changed and Michelle circulated a card with all the new URL links to the committee. The concerns are; 1) information is not as easily accessed with the new format and much of the DHHSD information (fact sheets, video streams, etc.) has been eliminated. The commission also hopes to improve collaboration with groups such as the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens (MADC), the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and MN Deaf Blind Association (MDBA) to promote the needs of Deaf/Deaf Blind/Hard of Hearing individuals and advocate for legislation and policy changes.

Michelle announced that Deaf/Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing Legislative day at the capitol is March 4, 2015. Rich also noted that if anyone wants to meet with their Legislator and/or their representative on issues, MCDHH has funding for accommodations.

DHHSD (Rich): Rich noted that the current regional budget is sufficient to cover operation until June 30, 2015 (the end of the fiscal year). We have to be careful, but that is always true. We continue to wait for permission to hire our OASI (DHHSD Office Administration person) in St. Cloud. Part of this might be because of the re-organizations of our Continuing Care Administration of DHS (which DHHSD is part of). We do know that the new name for our administration will be Community Services, and that the Aging Division will be relocated to a different Administration within DHS. We have a new Assistant Commissioner, Jennifer DeCubellis.

DHHS (Diane): Diane passed out a number of announcement flyers as well as the new Advisory Committee members list for 2015. Announcements included events that DHHS St. Cloud would participate in including; the 5th annual Latino Health Fair, February 1 at SCSU; Deaf Awareness Day, April 25 at White Bear Lake High School; and the DHHS all-day training April 29, at Princeton, MN. Other event that might be of interest; The list of HLAA Meeting in St. Cloud for 2015, the CSD Deaf ABE program beginning in Sauk Rapids and the ASLIS/Central Lakes College "ASL Lawyer Chat" on February 7 in Brainerd, MN. She also announced that the MADC and MN Registry of Interpreters (MRID) will separately hold their 2015 state conventions in St. Cloud, October 16-17, 2015. She promised to forward more information when it became available.

Member Sharing: Brenda Talked about the SNAPS (Socialization, Networking, Advocacy, and Parent Support) network in Central MN. They recently held Winter Wonderland (with Deaf Magician and Signing Santa) event December 13, 2014. This event also included a technology demonstration for parents. The program was well received and will be scheduled for the second Saturday in December 2015. SNAPS also is planning for family events called Popsicles at the Park this summer the 2nd Tuesday of the month is various locations in central MN. The program is intended to allow families to socialize and have fun, with some resource or program information. MN Hands and Voices will sponsor a Parent Symposium April 17-19 at Breezy Point, MN. The Metro MN Hands and Voices annual picnic will be August 6, 2015. Finally, her program is working with DHHS Central MN to set up a "Safety Fair" for school age children in regions 5 & 7 in 2016.

Shane gave a summary of his struggle with the school system that is not willing to provide a paraprofessional who can communicate in ASL for his 10 year old daughter who has Autism because she has no hearing loss.

Christina gave a summary of Deaf Mental Health's attempt to receive funding from the Legislature to expand their program. The legislation was not included in the DHS budget proposal to the Legislature. Her director, Dr. John Gournaris is still exploring other avenues to secure funding for the needs.

Mary gave a brief description of the Council on Aging and what programs and services they provide. There are seven COA's in MN and they provide grants to initiate or improve services and programs for seniors. They also operate the MN Senior Linkage Line.

Judy described her experience as a Certified Interpreter for 20+ years. She is on the committee to advise on needs and issues related to interpreters in the region.

Rosemond talked about her role at Centra-Care working with Communications Access for Diverse Populations. Centra-Care will hold a staff training on April 28 (last year the program focused on Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing communication needs). Her goal is train staff to work with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or have other communication needs.

Melinda talked about her services with VOA. She noted that the program also received a grant to sponsored "Parent Skills Groups." There were three groups for parents of children age Birth-5, Elementary Age, High School age. VOA is currently looking for another grant to re-do the program in 2015.

Our next Committee Meeting will be May 26. Suggestions for Speakers included Mary Hartnett on Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Individuals, Mary Bauer on Aging populations, and Information on working with the Somali Community/Culture. Rosemond gave some examples of potential cultural considerations for working with this community. The consensus of the group was to try to have a speaker from the Somali Community. Brenda mentions that MN Hands and Voices has parent Guides who work with the Somali Community. We will look for a speaker on this topic for the May meeting. Meeting Adjourned.