

DHHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 26, 2015

4:30-6:00pm

Meeting Facilitator: Michele Isham

Notetaker:

Interpreters:

***Welcome**

***Introductions**

***Additions/Corrections to agenda and approval of minutes** – see minutes from January 2015

***MCDHH Report** – Mary Hartnett/Michele Isham

***Regional Update**

*Rich

*Diane - East Central Regional Report

***TED Program-Karen**

***Announcements or Information sharing** – All

***Adjournment**

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday September 29, 2015

The meeting will be held at Benton Stearns Education District 517 2nd St. S. Sartell



DHSD East Central Advisory Committee

Minutes, May 26, 2015

Members: Melinda Brown, Mary Bauer, Jean Euteneau, Brenda Hommerding, Michelle Isham (Chairperson) Judy Leach, Rosemond Owens. Staff: Christina Costello, Rich Diedrichsen, Diane Leonard. Interpreters: Anne Janckila (Staff) and Lisa Loven. Absent: Gene Wyttenback, Shane Grom

Meeting called to order by Michelle Isham our Chair person. Additions to agenda; Mary Hartnett of the MCDHH will join us at 5:30 for a Legislative review. Karen Salza of the TED Program will not be able to join us today. Meeting minutes from last meeting reviewed and approved. Introductions completed. Michelle announced that her term as the MCDHH representative is ending and she is not eligible for re-appointment. Thus, the committee is looking for someone to serve as our representative.

Regional Up-Date: Rich noted that our DHS budget has been signed by the governor. Although, we do not know what our exact DHSD budget will be, we know that we will not have interruptions in our work. We are still waiting for permission to hire someone for our OASI (secretary) position. Staff are covering the duties on a rotation basis now.

Diane reported that our recent all-day training event in Princeton had 32 people attend. We also had an informational booth at the SCSU Abilities Fair. This proved to be a good opportunity to introduce future service providers to our programs and services. The MN Association of Deaf Citizens (MADC) will hold their conference in St. Cloud, over MEA weekend. Registration for MADC conference is now open. The MN Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf will have their annual conference the same weekend in the metro area. Registration will be open soon.

There will be a workshop for Mental Health Interpreting in St. Cloud (Sartell) July 18 and 19. Anyone interested can contact our office for more information.

Announcements and discussions: Brenda noted that the Parent Guide program appointed her as the lead Parent Guide for the outstate region. The program will have three "Popsicles in the Park" this summer. A hand out with the information is attached. Brenda on behalf of the Parent Guide program, recently met with CentaCare. The goal is to increase the likelihood of follow-up for families of children who do not successfully pass the early infant screening. LifeTracks, the lead agency for the Parent Guide program recently sponsored a symposium for parents and professionals on services for Children who are deaf or Hard of Hearing. About 40 parents and 200 professionals attended. This was an excellent opportunity for the two groups to connect and talk about needs, programs/services and Best Practices for serving children with deafness or hearing loss.

Jean announced that the Lions, who frequently support programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will have a fundraiser at the St. Cloud Pizza Ranch. This will happen Monday, June 1 from 5-8:00 p.m. They will have a Lions District 5M fundraiser in the metro June 6. This will raise money for

the 5M Hearing Aid Bank. Finally, Can-Do-Canines will have a walk/fundraiser September 12, in the metro.

Mary noted that the Statewide Health Improvement Program awarded grant funding to Stearns, Benton and Wright counties to work on Regional Active Transportation Plan. She handed out a website contact and asked all member to complete brief survey of need for the region.

MCDHH; Mary Hartnett: Mary began by thanking Michelle for her recent 6 years of service on the Commission. She noted that Michelle served as the chairperson and was an active lead on the education task force. Her input as a hard-of-hearing person was invaluable. Committee members introduced themselves and talked about their work.

She gave a brief overview of the commission and their plans for the future. The commission's five-year plan is on their website, which recently was up-dated and is new. She encouraged the committee members to look at it. One need is to identify the number of seniors who have deafness, are late deafened, or hard-of-hearing. There is currently no system for collection this information.

During the Legislative session bills were passed, and recently signed by the governor, to provide additional funds for DHHSD. DHHSD will receive about \$1,000,000 a year for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The target efforts for the funds are Mental Health Services, increase the number of DeafBlind people receiving services in MN and a central accommodation fund for state employees with deafness or hearing loss. The bill also seeks to strengthen the regional advisory committees and required that the meet a minimum of four times per year.

She handed out a summary of Legislation passed this session. Brenda talked about the success of the symposium and asked if it will be held again the future. Mary noted the total cost of the event was about \$7,000.00. Cost were shared by a number of entities and if there is funding again feedback form participants overwhelmingly support repeating the event.

Rosemond asked about Emergency-On-Call funding for interpreters. Mary had no new information related to this issue. She did mention that if there are concerns, to provide feedback to the commission.