

DHHS East Central Advisory Committee

Minutes, September 29, 2015

Members: Jean Euteneau, Shane Grom, Michelle Isham (Chairperson), Judy Leach, Brenda Hommerding, Mary Bauer

Staff: Christina Costello, Diane Leonard, Karen Salzl

Interpreters: Anne Janckila, Kris Haffley

Note taker: Kris Hulett

Absent: Rosemond Owens, Rich Diedrichsen, Melinda Brown

Meeting called to order by Michelle Isham our Chair person. No changes were made to the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

MCDHH Report- This position on the committee is currently vacant. Jean did submit an application. It is Michelle's understanding that DHHS is supposed to appoint someone. Since Rich is on leave and not present, there is no new information about the status of filling this position. Diane said she would like to wait for Rich to come back so they can work on the applications and make a recommendation. The committee is waiting on the recommendation from DHHS for this position. Legislators have allocated funds for DHHS to do a survey asking about program improvement and what we are doing well. If there are any questions in regard to the survey, please contact David Rosenthal.

Regional Update- Since Rich is on leave, Diane shared the notes he had left for the meeting. Kris Hulett was introduced as the new Administrative Assistant in the DHHS office and also as the note taker for the committee meetings. Since this position has been vacant for a year, Kris is a very welcome addition. A special thanks to Christina Costello for being willing to take on the role of note taker in the interim. There is little pressure with the budget this year, so we can continue with business as usual. We just need to be careful and aware when it comes to the budget. A special thank you to MCDHH who helped to get additional funds for us to provide needed services in the region, particularly Mental Health and Deaf Blind Services. DHHS currently has 2 studies in progress. The Regional and Central Office structure study will determine if there will be any changes to the current structure of DHHS and the staffing needs of each region. The structure has been the same since 1980. However, there have been staff positions and offices that have been eliminated or moved. The study will allow us to see if the structure we have now allows us to provide optimal service delivery. The second study was the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TAM) study which is an umbrella of the Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program. There was a TAM audit from a legislative auditor. The TAM Program is to help people access telephone options. This also includes technology as it changes. The goal is to see what we can do to optimize services to Minnesotans who have difficulty accessing Telecommunications services in Minnesota due to hearing, speech and some physical limitations. We are currently trying to get the TAM program to get funds for the TED program. The only outstate members/representatives are Michelle and Brenda Ackerson. Our office is currently trying to coordinate the skills we have in the office and to make better

use of our time. The effort often leads to being able to reach people we might not have otherwise been able to connect with in a timely manner. Intro to the Deaf World will be held at St. Cloud Hospital for all hospital staff in October and two trainings with the St. Cloud Police Department will be in November. Metro bus dial-a-ride has developed a new policy in regards to calling and then not showing up for the scheduled pick up. The new policy was provided in a handout.

Diane reminded members that if they travel, Kris has vendor forms for them to fill out to get reimbursed for their mileage. If members don't have a vendor number, Kris also has the W-9 form that will need to be filled out to receive a vendor number from the State of Minnesota. Michelle's term will end in December. Thank you Michelle for the hard work you have done for us-contributions, space to meet, MCDHH representative for our region, chairperson. When a member's second consecutive term is up, they are required to take a one year break before serving on a committee again. There are currently two applications we have received. These will take the place of both Gene and Michelle, as Gene is unable to continue with the Advisory Committee commitment. A new chairperson will be needed starting in January. Melinda Brown will be with us for another three-year term and is also willing to take on the role of chairperson if needed. We are in need of a meeting space, since Michelle will be leaving, we won't be using the same space anymore. Just today, Rosemond sent an email offering us a spot for meetings at CentraCare. The Aging and Disability conference was held in Duluth back in June. Disability Awareness Task Force (Diane is a member) has two events coming up in October: Dinner and a movie and Celebration of Abilities. Diane talked about and brought flyers for the following events:

- ✓ Dinner and a Movie-October 1-no closed captioning but interpreters will be provided
- ✓ Celebration of Abilities on October 20 at The Holiday Inn-to inform people that although someone may have a disability, they also have abilities that should be recognized
- ✓ ABE-this fall will be their 2nd year-Brenna Reichle will be teaching these classes-classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00pm-7:30pm at Hillside in Sauk Rapids
- ✓ Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens (MADC) Conference-October 16-17 in St. Cloud-there are lots of people already registered
- ✓ Traveling Health Fair Screening in Cold Spring-October 21 8:00 am-Noon

Any questions on any events listed above, please contact Diane. Diane will send out flyers to those who need them. Diane also just received information today regarding a YouTube video that walks through the entire process of a hospital stay/visit. The video depicts the admissions/front desk where someone would fill out paperwork. The entire video is in ASL and was created as a training tool for hospital staff. The whole CentraCare Health System will be doing this training at all of its locations. Shane Grom will be doing an introduction and giving his approval for the video, along with being in the video as a consumer. The purpose of the video is to inform Deaf people of what to do when it comes to the admissions process and also to gain a Deaf perspective on the current processes in place. Rosemond is the person who helped put the video project into action. Another important point in the video is to let doctors and other health care providers know they can't just assume they understand. Captions will be added

soon along with the introduction by Shane. The video that was sent out is a work in progress and not for public release until it is finished.

TED Program- Karen stated that the iPad pilot project is underway but there aren't any specifics yet. This project would be mainly for Deaf individuals. Since the TTY came out in 1987 for Deaf individuals, there hasn't been anything now for these individuals. There are a lot of phones available for Hard of Hearing individuals. The iPad may also help Hard of Hearing individuals in the same way as a caption phone, one person relay, and so on. Karen and Diane were playing with the text-to-speech app that would be on the iPad. They both agreed that it worked very nice for the purpose of communication between a deaf individual and a hearing individual. The down side to this pilot program is that it would require consumers to have Wi-Fi but there currently are not any programs to help pay for Wi-Fi. Any types of games and other applications would be blocked and the iPad would be used solely for communication purposes. Karen stated there wasn't a specific date yet but it typically takes about 6 months to get something like this off the ground. Shane asked if this would be something that schools/colleges or hospitals might be interested in having. Christina explained that although it would be beneficial in those settings, DHHS provides services only to individuals and not businesses.

Presenter- Mary Bauer provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Central Minnesota Council on Aging, which currently has outreach programs in a 14 county area. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this presentation or any services offered through the council, please contact Mary.

Announcements or Information Sharing- Brenda said they had three Popsicle in the Park events this summer and have a Snowflake Party planned for December 12 in Sauk Rapids. The event in December will have a literacy theme. Minnesota Hands and Voices has a very strong leader in Minnesota and has many things going on. They also currently received funding. Adult Role Model training is tomorrow night (September 30) from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Brenda. This program has been done twice in the Metro and once in Southwest Minnesota by Mankato. If the program is successful, there is a hope to continue to travel throughout Minnesota on an annual basis.

Jean announced that the Lion's Club held a spaghetti dinner for two girls with cochlear implants and it was a success. The Lion's Club will also be in St. Joseph on October 2 and 3 at the meat market raising money to help with hearing aids.

Our next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2016 4:30 pm-6:30 pm and will possibly be held at the CentraCare plaza. Diane will be in contact with everyone in regards to the meeting place in January.