

MAY 31
2016

Meeting Facilitator: Melinda Brown

Note taker: Kristina Hulett

Interpreters: Anne Janckila and _____

Call to Order/Welcome

Rich Diedrichsen is now retired!

Introduce our guests, Marie Koehler, Regional Manager for Metro DHHS office, and David Rosenthal, DHHS Director

Additions/Corrections to agenda and approval of minutes – see minutes from January 2016

MCDHH Report –

Regional Update - Diane Leonard

TED Program Update – Karen Salzl

Marie and David:

Note: Between David and Marie, they could give an update on the Division Study including the Town Hall meetings and Stakeholders meetings conducting by the PCG (although their recommendations are not due until the end of June).

- An update on the TED Study**
- Update on the DHHSD Statewide meeting**
- Update on iPad/iPhone Pilot for TED**

Announcement or Information Sharing – All

Adjournment

Next meeting: September 27, 2016. Location of the meeting will be announced soon.



DHHS East Central Advisory Committee

Minutes, May 31, 2016

Members: Melinda Brown (Chairperson), Shane Grom, Judy Leach, Mary Bauer, Brenda Hommerding, Omar Ibrahim, Jean Euteneuer
Staff: Christina Costello, Diane Leonard, Marie Koehler, David Rosenthal
Interpreters: Anne Janckila, Carlos Grant
Guests: Rich Diedrichsen
Note taker: Kris Hulett
Absent: Rosemond Owens, Kristin Francois

Meeting called to order by Melinda Brown our Chair person. No changes were made to the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were reviewed and approved. A special welcome to David Rosenthal (director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services) and Marie Koehler (acting regional manager for the St. Cloud office).

MCDHH Report- There was some confusion as to if our committee has a MNCDHH representative. It was determined that we do not. David provided an update for the commission. The commission currently has 6 goals: 1) Improved Education Outcomes, 2) Increased Employment Opportunities, 3) Recognition of Age Related Hearing Loss, 4) Improved Communication Access; Stronger Regional Advisory Committees, 5) Civic Engagement, 6) Increased Organizational Capacity. One of them focuses on education. MNCDHH recently hosted a collaborative conference, which focused on Special Education teachers and Deaf/Hard of Hearing teachers. The biggest challenge for Deaf/Hard of Hearing teachers is to obtain CEUs. There is also a lot of concern with older teachers retiring and there are not many new Deaf/Hard of Hearing teachers coming in. There has also been talk of older Deaf/Hard of Hearing teachers mentoring the new teachers. Transition was also a big topic at the conference. The commission has been mainly focused on the next fiscal year. Legislation regarding requiring televisions in hospitals to show captions at all times was passed; requiring the Department of Health to establish a Division on Aging and Hearing Loss did not pass; money for a preschool at Metro Deaf School was passed; money for Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes was passed; requiring a study for the jails was not passed. The study for the jails was to see the number of deaf inmates and also to see if the jails have equipment and that it is in working order for any deaf inmates. This year the legislative session was very different than past years. There are commission e-mail blasts that each individual can sign up for as these are a good way to stay up to date on what is happening with the commission. Although a MNCDHH representative has not been chosen for our region, there are applicants. Hopefully we will know soon who our representative will be.

Regional Update- Diane was just informed today that Rosemond will be leaving CentraCare. She is moving to the metro and has accepted a position down there. June 13th will be her last day with CentraCare. Since Rosemond will no longer be on the committee, we will have to find a

new place to hold our meetings. Rich is now officially retired. He did apply for the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) position with DHHS Mental Health Program.

Past Events:

- ✓ May 3 All Day Training in Mora had over 40 attendees
- ✓ Senior Network Provider meetings
- ✓ MRID Workshop was in April. Carlos, our interpreter here tonight, was the presenter.
- ✓ ASLIS had a Communication Access Chat here at CentraCare at the end of April.
- ✓ Several health fairs
- ✓ SCSU Ability Event

More police and sheriff departments have been asking for training. Isanti County would like to set one up and have police officers, county workers and sheriff deputies attend. All of the trainings provided cover any Deaf/Hard of Hearing needs. It is not one or the other. The training in July will be done in collaboration with Mary Bauer from the metro office and focus on communication access. Sherburne County has also expressed an interest in learning about technology for inmates. There was a lawsuit recently which may explain the increase in interest by sheriff departments to ensure they have appropriate training. David shared that there has been an increase in the number of requests for training statewide. It is not a huge increase, but is an increase for law enforcement. Mary shared that Sherburne County has a training every year and that when Diane connects with them to talk about technology training, she should ask about being involved in their training next year, which is typically in May. Also, Mary shared that there are SALT groups (seniors And Law enforcement Training) all over the state, including one in Sartell. Rich added that it is for Emergency Management as well, not just law enforcement.

Upcoming events:

- July: Training in Isanti County
- Deaf Restaurant Club-invitation only. The people that are typically invited are those who live in group homes, are isolated and in general do not feel a part of the Deaf community. The next event is in July and will include going to dinner and then to the Deaf softball league game.

TED Program- Karen was not able to be here tonight so Sarah Maheswaran (TED Administrator) gave Marie a TED update to share on her behalf.

TED Study: The study has officially ended but they are trying to figure out the technology. The TED program numbers are currently down and the official report for the study is due today.

TED Pilot: Started April 25th. So far there have been 9 orders received so far statewide. The goal was to distribute 20 iPads and 20 iPhones statewide. All of the new devices have preinstalled apps depending on the disability of the person (D/HH, speech, physical).

Director's Update- The division has had two studies this year: TED/TAM and DHHS as an agency.

TED Study: This study was done by The Improve Group (TIG) in St. Paul. This study started first and is now in the process of reporting their results. This study included 5 phases that started in December and ended in April. The month of May was spent on composing the report.

DHHS Study: This study was done by Public Consulting Group (PCG) in Boston. This study consisted of online surveys, public meetings, daily surveys for staff and town hall meetings. Town Hall meetings were held in the following cities: Grand Rapids, Bemidji, Owatonna, Willmar and the metro. The highest attendance at a meeting was the metro followed by Bemidji. There were two meetings in the metro: one for stakeholders and the other for immigrants. A lot of wonderful feedback came from these town hall meetings. Once all of these were completed, PCG had a meeting with the steering committee to present the common themes for improvement from consumer feedback. This information is not yet being released to the public. Once it gets filed in about August, it will then be made public information. The due date for the final report is June 30. Once we receive the report, we will see what we can implement now and what will have to go through legislation. Hopefully the funding will be available to make the necessary changes right away, but some of the changes may require a re-structuring of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services. One thing that was brought up at almost every meeting was every community wants someone in their community, and not just a regional office that is so far away. Marie added that with the themes, there were some that DHHS had internally identified and those will be easy fixes. Hopefully you will start to see improvements soon.

Last week, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services had their state-wide meeting. All employees of the division met face-to-face to focus on transition and change within the division and how to handle them. There may be many changes coming, so try not to be overwhelmed by the changes.

There is a new Assistant Commissioner for the Community Supports Administration named Claire Wilson, who will start work on June 13. For those of you who don't know how that related to Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services, it goes as follows: we are all Department of Human Services (DHS) employees. DHS is broken down into different administrations. Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services is under the Community Supports Administration. So essentially, the new Assistant Commissioner is David's boss. This is very exciting news as we are looking forward to meeting and working with someone new.

Announcements or Information Sharing-

Mary (CMCOA) shared that they are implementing a new model for 55+. DHHS has always been well represented and one of the new models of screenings was just scheduled today for Foley for September 29 from 4-6:30 pm. There will be screenings there, including: hearing, vision, diabetes, etc. There will also be Nursing students there to conduct balance assessments and fall risks. These typically draw about 200 people because it is combined with a pie social, and the

hours also allow people still working to come as well. Since Mary just found out the date today, we are the first to know about this health fair.

Brenda shared that Saida was going to come, but after reviewing the questions she was given, she felt she wasn't the best person to answer these questions. Minnesota Hands and Voices had an event recently and the presenter was a Somali presenter from PACER who presented in Somali. This was interesting to see because the presentation had to be translated to English through a Somali interpreter and then signed through an ASL interpreter. It was fascinating to watch. There are also some new families and Hands and Voices continues to grow. There are two more events scheduled:

- June 16 in Buffalo "Transitions" is the topic
- July 21 in Cambridge "VOA" is the topic

There is also some Adult Role Model (ARM) training throughout the state. Training has already been held in Fergus Falls, Mahanomen, and Duluth. A training is going to be held in Rochester but has not yet taken place. The metro is also having one at the Como Zoo. If you know anyone interested in coming, please tell them to RSVP. In the past, they have had so many people show up that they had to turn away some families. If you are interested and have not done so, you can sign up for the newsletter and e-mails from Minnesota Hands and Voices. Please let Brenda know if you would like to be signed up.

Diane shared that there were handouts on the back table for the text to 9-1-1 information and a list of applications (apps) for people with disabilities. The apps are anywhere from free to costing about \$20. There is also a list of the Deaf Co-ed softball games on the table as well.

Judy shared that different schools and organizations have set up career fairs and invited interpreters to set up a booth. They have even done so at a few colleges as well. Hopefully it will peak more interest in the interpreting field.

Shane shared that he is not looking forward to fighting with the St. Cloud school district again. They have decided to create and implement a new policy that doesn't allow his daughter to have a service dog in the school starting this fall, saying that a child with autism doesn't qualify for a service animal under their policy. Other schools it has not been an issue but St. Cloud has been a struggle. Shane has been in contact with PACER, as this has been a long struggle and now it looks like it will need to be done again. Because of the type of autism his daughter has, she is very delayed. She also uses English in school and ASL at home and the school will not support her using ASL in school because she is not deaf, although both of her parents are. She can communicate in short phrases in ASL, but otherwise she does not speak.

Melinda shared that VOA has set up a grant in Rochester and now are looking for workers. The main position they are looking for is a mental health counselor to work with children and families.

Omar shared that he is also having problems with the school district regarding his child. The Early Childhood Special Education teacher doesn't know ASL and always brings an interpreter,

but because there are so many people, his son has trouble paying attention. His son is Hard of Hearing and his daughter is deaf, along with both parents being Deaf. There currently is not a deaf teacher in St. Cloud. Omar is going to contact the Deaf Mentor Program through Lifetrack. At the town hall meeting down in the metro, Omar observed that many immigrants were upset because they came here, most with families, and they need to find housing, work, etc. but they are all just put into ABE classes. They then feel stuck and stay at home. A small group discussion then went over the following:

- The Department of Education has been given funding for learning English. ABE works on ASL, so essentially immigrants end up learning ASL and then English.
- Deaf people in Africa have learned English in school, they come to America, go into ABE classes, pass the test, but still don't know ASL and can't communicate with other Deaf people.
- Saida (parent guide) observed that it is common for parents to know one language (native), the children are learning English and ASL, and now they can't communicate with their parents.

Our next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The location of this meeting is still to be determined.

