

**AGENDA**  
**DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES~EAST/WEST CENTRAL**  
**EAST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 5, 2018 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm**  
**Benton Stearns Education District Office, 517 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S, Sartell, MN 56377**

**I. WELCOME**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Additions/Changes to Agenda and Minutes
- b. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

**IV. DIRECTOR UPDATE (Dan Millikin – Tentative)**

**V. MEMBER UPDATES**

**Please share any community observations as it relates to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and/or any other news you think is relevant to this committee. Thank you!**

**10 minute break**

**VI. EAST CENTRAL UPDATE (Diane Leonard)**

**VII. MN RELAY**

**VIII. REGIONAL MANAGER'S UPDATE (Anne Janckila)**

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a. October 2, 2018 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm at Paynesville Area Center
  - i. Topics for PACER presentation
- b. December 4, 2018 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at Benton Stearns Education District Office

**ADJOURNMENT**



## DHHS East Central Advisory Committee Meeting

June 5, 2018

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Benton Stearns Education District Office,  
517 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S, Sartell, MN 56377

Meeting called by	Diane Schiffler-Dobe
Note taker	Kris Hulett
Attendees	Members: Melinda Brown, Todd Grabowski, Shane Grom, , Michele Isham, Suzanne Iwainat, Judy Leach, Diane Schiffler-Dobe  Interpreters: Jenny Johannes, Sonia Vicioso
Absent	Omar Ibrahim, Jamie Speier
Others present	Anne Janckila-WOC Regional Manager, Kris Hulett-DHHS Staff, Diane Leonard-DHHS Staff, Christina Costello-DHHS Staff
<b>Agenda Topics</b>	
Call to order / Introductions / Welcome	<i>Anne Janckila</i>
Discussion	The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. Introductions were held as some members were going to be late (they were done before the East Central Update) and members were welcomed.
Acceptance of Minutes from (February 6, 2018)	<i>Anne Janckila</i>
Discussion	Melinda made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Michele seconded it. Minutes approved.
Member Updates	<i>All</i>
Discussion	

Melinda: Things are basically the same. I have been doing lots of traveling. I'm giving a presentation with Tara from Minnesota Hands & Voices on internet safety.

Suzanne: Our April event was cancelled. We are in the process of trying to get it set again for October. On June 23, there will be an event in Rochester titles "Little People, Big Voices". On August 2 we will have our annual metro picnic at Como Zoo.

Judy: As far as things going on since the last meeting, MRID and MADC had joined to put on a conference in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn. We would like to see joint efforts between MRID and MADC continue.

Our local interpreter group is open to all interpreters. We now meet quarterly instead of monthly. We will still try to have different topics and speakers. Our local group had a meeting with the Minnesota CDI group to discuss and learn the appropriate teaming techniques, how to advocate for CDIs, and other relevant topics. The meeting went well and we plan to have more meetings in the future. Anyone that is an interpreter can come to these meetings. These meetings are informal and a safe space to share things that come up, plan trainings, and discuss different topics.

We are trying to pull all the resources we can to meet the unique needs of our area. Jamie Speier manages SCIS (Sorenson Community Interpreter Services) through Sorenson along with VRS. SCIS has specific contracts to meet the needs of the community. We are hopeful that a localized agency will better recognize the needs and gaps in our community, and have a specialized plan to address them.

Summertime By George will have interpreters again this year.

The MRID fall conference will most likely be at Breezy Point.

Todd: *In previous meetings, Todd has talked about his experiences with the captioning devices at the movie theater he uses. Todd has played a critical role in working with the theater to update their captioning devices.*

When I went to the movies 2 months ago, the closed captioning worked well. Recently when I went to the movies, about 3 minutes into the movie, it stopped working. They are now remodeling the theater so hopefully it will improve.

Shane: *Shane has been going back and forth with the St. Cloud school district for several years attempting to get much needed accommodations to his child in the classroom. IEP meetings have resulted in disagreements and the school district has historically been unwilling to accommodate the child, the child's services animal, and the child's communication access needs. The child*

*communicates more clearly in ASL, even though the child is hearing. The school has previously turned down requests for ASL communication in the classroom; specifically, a paraprofessional who communicates in ASL. For quite some time, Shane's wife has been attending school with the child in order to look after the child's services animal.*

The school district has finally decided to hire a para that signs. Her husband is deaf. We recently met her and she seems qualified to work with our child. She will also take responsibility with the dog so that my wife no longer has to attend school with our child.. All of my years attending IEP meetings and fighting for my child's rights are finally paying off.

I have a meeting at St. Cloud hospital this Thursday. Their lawyer called the meeting so I will go with my lawyer to see what they want to discuss. There is another person that expressed interest in joining us, but I don't know if she will be coming or not. She is a Child of a Deaf Adult (CODA).

At the spring conference on May 5, we learned to better emphasize that you need an in-person interpreter by writing "I don't understand" if the doctor (or provider) tries to communicate through written methods, even if you need to write it multiple times. This way there is a paper trail of you asking for appropriate accommodations and proof if the provider refuses to provide the accommodation that works best for you. There was also a discussion at the conference that NAD is working to get the topic of accommodations for hearing loss added to medical facility audits so that entities have lasting ramifications if they do not provide reasonable accommodations to their clients/patients.

Diane S: We have Deaf mentors and there is currently not a waiting list. There are currently 12 role models with only 5 families utilizing them.

K-4 collaborative plan through the Commission (MNCDHH) is working toward getting ASL and PSE access for MCA testing. The tests are already available in multiple spoken languages. MCAs were created here in Minnesota, so there is a bigger push to provide the tests in ways that accommodate those who communicate in ASL or PSE.

There has also been a discussion on who follows through on the interpreters that have a temporary school licensure extension prior to becoming certified. Currently, we are unsure of what happens to interpreters if they do not become certified after their license and/or extensions run out. Some schools reclassify them as language facilitators and are akin to signing paraprofessionals. However, this title should be changed as they are not allowed to interpret communication for students without a license/certification. Interpreters are already language facilitators, which is written into their job descriptions. (MN statute 122.831) One idea would be to give the job title of signing para professional.

MNCDHH Update

*Michele Isham*

There will be an education policy committee from the Commission and also discussion of a tiered licensure. That will be in July. These are huge concerns for the Commission. The Commission also wants to make sure they are getting the mentoring they need.

RID/NAD no longer provides a test or certification for oral interpretation anymore, but it's been noted (specifically by the St. Cloud DHHS office) that there is a growing need for these services

Judy: Oral interpreters are also needed because we should be using their mode of communication. There are still many requests and a strong need for oral interpreters.

Anne: I would consider oral interpreters the equivalent of a CDI for a Deaf person. It's one thing to write to a court and request a CDI for a Deaf person, but now try asking for an oral interpreter for someone who has some hearing. It should be considered an option in addition to ASL interpreting, though most providers and many Hard of Hearing community members who could benefit do not know that this is a viable and realistic option for accommodation.

I was invited to go to the NAD convention in Hartford, Connecticut in July. MNCDHH is getting ready for their 5 year plan and met Dan, the new DHHS Director.

New Business

*Anne Janckila*

October 2018 Meeting

We will be having a joint meeting on October 2 in Paynesville from 2:00 – 4:30. DeAnne from PACER will present. Please let me know if you have any topic ideas that I can pass on to her.

- Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing families
- County Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing families
- How do people hear about PACER
- How do people learn about PACER

Discussion

I am still doing lots of outreach work, but now I have moved on to the next area in the region. I have had some requests for presentations and consultations. This spring I will be more north and east. The places I am reaching out to are nursing homes, supervised living, and home care, along with adding Audiologists for both this area and the previous one. I may have more presentations and consulting coming up on my schedule. For the summer, I will go more to the south and for fall, I'll be more west.

Our all day training was successful. The next one will be in the east. We have had an offer from Princeton, where there is a facility willing to host us.

The DeafBlind Consumer Directed Services program will no longer be managed through DHHS as of June 30. It will now be managed through Consumer Directions, Inc (CDI). CDI used to be the fiscal agent and now they will also be doing the case management for clients beginning July 1 to start the new fiscal year.

I will be going to the HLAA conference. I'm excited to learn about the equipment and will use CART a lot because there are not many interpreters. There is an extensive amount of equipment for Hard of Hearing individuals that I am excited to see and learn about.

I also have some extra copies of the Hearing Loss Matters DVD. This was aired as a TPT special that was made in conjunction with MNCDHH. If you would like one, please let me know.

*Anne Janckila*

Minnesota Relay Report

**Feedback Regarding MN Relay**

Diane Schiffler-Dobe was told to download their app to her phone but it failed. It doesn't work.

Regional Manager Update

*Anne Janckila*

Discussion

An update was passed out.

We finally have a new director that started in April. He has a lot of work to do, relationships to repair and decisions to be made. He is really going to make a strong effort to make it to the October meeting. He seriously looks at things before making a decision, such as feedback from advisory meetings.

The Moorhead office now has a staff interpreter in their office. Michelle Remer is going to be their staff interpreter. This is a one year temporary position.

We will be starting an 87 county outreach project. Diane and other specialists will be visiting all of the counties in the state within their respective regions.

Our service delivery model will be changing. The Mental Health Program will stay the same. DHHS and TED may look vastly different. Our current model was developed in the 1980s, so we intend to update it to better fit the needs of the community, though we don't know specific details yet.

Agile Apps will hopefully be launching by the end of this month. It will start with the TED program. Then it will go to mental health for electronic medical record and finally to DHHS.



Manager's Update  
May-June 2018.docx

*Manager's Update 1*

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Announcements

*Anne Janckila*

Christina: This will be my last meeting. I got a different job and will be moving in July. We are waiting on some things from HR and they will be replacing me. My position will not go away. It will be filled. My new job is in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

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Dates for Future Meetings

*Anne Janckila*

The next scheduled meetings are:

October 2, 2018 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm at the Paynesville Area Center

December 4, 2018 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Benton Stearns Education District

**REMINDERS:**

- **You can be reimbursed for your mileage and parking expenses**
- **If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let Anne or Kris know.**

**AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE DHHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AND OFFERING YOUR TIME AND FEEDBACK!**