

Agenda: East Central DHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: June 18, 2019

Minutes prepared by: Jeanne Kolo-Johnson

Location: Benton Stearns Education District, 517 2nd St. South, Sartell

Attendance

- Members
 - Melinda Brown
 - Todd Grabowski
 - Shane Grom
 - Omar Ibrahim
 - Michele Isham
 - Suzanne Iwainat
 - Judy Leach
 - Diane Schiffler-Dobe
 - Jamers Speier
- DHHS Staff
 - Jeanne Kolo-Johnson, Lead Specialist
 - Michelle Remer, DHHS Interpreter
 - Diane Leonard, Dhh Specialist
- Tanya Zimmer, Interpreter (ASLIS)

Agenda

- Call to Order/Introductions/Welcome
- Acceptance of March 27 Meeting Minutes
- Guest Speaker: Mike Matanich, Stearns County Public Health
- East Central DHHS Update
- Member Input
- Statewide DHHS Update
- TED/MR Update
- MNCDHH Update

Call to Order/Diane Schiffler-Dobe

- Meeting called to order at 4:31

- Introductions were made and all were welcomed

Acceptance of March 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes/Diane Schiffler-Dobe

Motion made by Jamers and seconded by Shane.

Guest Speaker: Mike Matanich, Stearns County Public Health

Shared information about the work Stearns County Public Health does, including disaster response and recovery, several infectious disease initiatives, community health work including WIC and environmental health work. Stearns County frequently collaborates with Benton and Sherburne Counties.

When asked if Stearns County Public Health is familiar with working with interpreters, Mike replied they use interpreters across all of their work and they have eleven who use ASL. Some are independent, and they use Arch and the Bridge. Diane Leonard provided training for their agency and provided education for them about the need to provide communication access equal to what they provide for other people.

Jamers recommended using Deaf interpreters, and she provided a description of what Certified Deaf Interpreters are.

Information about Public Health services and emergency preparedness is provided on the radio, the news, on line and the website, which is currently being redone. Stearns County works with a disaster response management team, which develops the way in which information is provided to the community.

People are able to sign up for alerts; subscribe to Everbridge. People can choose whether to receive alerts via email or text messages. This will alert people severe weather emergencies.

<https://member.everbridge.net>

East Central DHHS Update

- Karen and Diane continue their outreach efforts in five southern counties. They will move next to the far southern border of the region.
- Diane co-presented "Hearing Loss 101" in Princeton with Mary Bauer, a specialist from the metro office. The training was very well received. This training was shorter than in years past and no CEUs were offered. Next year the training will be offered in the East Central region.
- Social events are being facilitated three times a year in the West Central part of the region near Willmar. One took place in April with the Department of Public Safety. Dustin Leslie presented about Text to 9-1-1. The next event will be on July 23rd in Olivia; an attorney from Lake Benton will talk about life care directives and living wills. Invite family and friends to come. In October, Jamie Chapin will lead a discussion on mental health issues.

Member Input (Members identify gaps and service needs in region)

- A concern regarding grant money provided to ASLIS from DHHS being used to coordinate volunteer interpreters for the MRID Spring Conference was raised. The belief was that the grant money was not

intended for this purpose and that \$1200.00 of the grant had been left over from the fiscal year, which could have been used to provide more support for interpreters.

- A question was raised about how interpreters hear about interpreter improvement opportunities.
- A comment was made that more transparency in how the grant is used is desirable.
- There are ongoing issues related to captions in a local movie theater. Some staff have not received training on how to use the captioning devices; this makes requesting the devices frustrating for customers.
 - Diane will follow up with Todd. The theatre has new equipment so the problem lies in the fact that employees have not received training.
 - Judy mentioned the theatre has been urged to train staff. She asked that community members contact Joe at the theatre so they hear from customers.
- Centra Care has not been providing interpreters. One member learned they have interpreters on call only from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. but none after that, so there are no interpreters available for overnight emergencies. The charge nurses seem to lack training and don't recognize the need for face to face interpreters.
 - Another member urged the Deaf community to complain because they are still in discussions with an attorney about the provision of VRI and whether or not VRI services are always appropriate.
 - Judy stated Centra Care is part of Emergency Preparedness planning. Doug from Centra Care may be a good contact and he is open to making things accessible for people who are Deaf. Todd may have his contact information. Leaders from Centra Care attend the meetings, and so that may be a good place to make connections.
 - Another member once had VRI and had to wait for more than an hour for the face to face interpreter to arrive.
- Omar asked that, if the state distributes iPhones, they allow consumers to use their own cell phone numbers.

Statewide DHHS Update

- An I&R Specialist will start on June 26th. All calls from around the state will be handled by this person, and then will be routed to the appropriate person.
- A Mankato DHH specialist position is currently going through a lengthy approval process and will then be posted.
- The posting for a TED Specialist closed last week.
- The new, standalone website will have a soft launch on June 26th and then a formal launch in July.
- All DHHS Specialists have started testing and using the new database, Agile Apps.

TED/MR Update:

- **Feedback Regarding Minnesota Relay, including CapTel**

No feedback was provided.

MNCDHH Update:

- **MNCDHH Update re: Legislative session**
 - Diane Leonard shared handouts with legislative updates.
 - Diane received the posting for the executive director position.
 - Currently the commission only has six members, and six or seven are waiting for the governor to appoint them. He just appointed Krista Jones, from the East Central region, and the president of HLAA, as well as Les Fairbanks. They still need someone from the West Central and the Southwest.
 - Things are being done a little bit differently on the commission because they have gone through several changes. In the past they had one staff and now they have six. As a result they have developed policies defining member roles and they now have a handbook.

Next Meeting Date:

September 24th, 2019, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

December 3rd, 2019, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Reminders:

You can be reimbursed for your mileage and parking expenses

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let Diane Leonard know at diane.leonard@state.mn.us