

Meeting Minutes: Joint Southeast and Southwest DHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 10/04/2019
Minutes prepared by: Marie Koehler
Location: Owatonna Public Library, 105 N. Elm Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060

Attendance

- Members
 - Chandra Petersen/DEED
 - Ashley Worthen-Galuska/MEC
 - Melissa Cummins/SEMCIL
 - Jacqui Shasky/Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Krista Blood/MNHV
 - Ridge Euler
 - Lloyd Ballinger
 - Wes Brandenburger
 - Not Present: Howard Rosten, Lisa Dembouski, Gretchen Spear, Nettie Peters, and Missy Brenhaug
- Other Attendees
 - Marie Koehler/DHHSD
 - Calla Kevan/DHHSD
 - Kirk Anderson/DHHSD
 - Dustin Leslie, Department of Public Safety
 - Rochelle Garrow/Department of Commerce
- Interpreters and CART
 - Jennifer David/Interpreter
 - Misty Nelsen/Interpreter
 - Jason Hawkins/Interpreter
 - Katy Dynan/Interpreter
 - Angie/CART provider

Agenda

- Call to Order/ Introductions/ Welcome/Meet Kirk and new member/Calla Kevan
- Guest Speaker from Department of Public Safety- Dustin Leslie on Text-to-911
- Acceptance of Meeting Minutes/Calla Kevan
 - Southeast: July 12, 2019
 - Southwest: July 19, 2019
- Southeast and Southwest DHHS Update Report/Calla Kevan
- DHHS Update Report/Marie Koehler
- TED and MR Update/Calla Kevan
- MNCDHH Update/Lloyd Ballinger
- Community Advisory Meeting-Member feedback and recommendation/Marie Koehler
- Service Gaps and Needs in the Southwest Region/Member Input
- Date of Next Meeting
 - Southeast
 - Southwest

Meeting Notes

Call to Order/Introductions/Welcome/Meet Kirk and new member

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. Members were welcomed.

Guest Speaker: Dustin Leslie from Department of Public Safety

Dustin is the project manager for Text-to-9-1-1 and provided a presentation to the committee. He shared the process of setting up the program, statistics, and information on how Text-to-9-1-1 works. Dustin shared some success stories with individuals who have used Text-to-9-1-1. Dustin said that Minnesota is one of the six states nationwide to have statewide Text-to-911 service. In 2018, 5,000 Text to 9-1-1 calls were received in Minnesota, the majority of them related domestic violence. People call still call using TTY; in fact this would ensure the dispatcher of the caller's exact location. The same is true for VP callers, assuming the caller's address is up-to-date. Dustin provided a Text-to-9-1-1 demo to our committee members. A Fact Sheet was given to members with directions and tips on how to text to 9-1-1. The PowerPoint and Fact Sheet is attached.



Text-to-9-1-1
Presentation.pptx



!Text-to-911 Fact
Sheet.pdf

Acceptance of July 2019 Meeting Minutes

Due to the joint nature of this meeting, the motions to accept meeting minutes for both Southeast and Southwest was approved separately.

For the Southeast July 12th, 2019 meeting minutes, Ashley made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Chandra seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for Southeast Advisory Committee were approved as written.

For the Southwest July 19th, 2019 meeting minutes, Jacqui made the motion to approve. She was the only member present today who also attended the previous meeting. There was not enough members in attendance to second the motion, so the minutes could not be formally approved.

Southeast and Southwest DHHS Update (Calla Kevan)

Calla shared that she has continued to serve the entire southern region. She works directly with consumers assisting them and making referrals. She has also worked and provided services directly to agencies and service providers. Calla has worked on making connections and presenting at different agencies in the southern region. Several trainings that she mentioned were at assistive living facilities, Workforce Development Inc., Southeast Area Agency on Aging, and County Social Services/Public Health Departments. Calla attended a shareholder meeting with ASLIS to discuss interpreter gaps and service needs for the southern region. Calla mentioned that DHHS will have a booth during the upcoming MRID/MADC Conference on October 18-19th at MSAD.

DHHS Update Report (Marie Koehler)

Personnel:

- The administrative assistant in Moorhead recently resigned. We do not know when or if we will fill this position. The Metro office is looking to fill a similar position.
- Amy Hays, the Mental Health Therapist in Duluth who had resigned from her position, returned and is now working 32 hours a week.
- The Mankato Specialist position – this position has been re-posted. Candidates must meet the minimum qualification of 2 years direct client work.
- Moving forward, the division will post a Training and Technology Specialist position

Activities/Events:

- DHHS rolled-out a centralized Information and Referral service statewide.
- The division's re-designed website has received a lot of positive feedback.
- DHHS central office staff recently hosted a DeafBlind Town Hall meeting. Staff informed attendees of the division's resign changes, discussed DeafBlind specific grants, and allowed attendees to ask questions and identify needs and gaps
- The division created a combined hearing and vision loss online training which is quite comprehensive and will soon be posted on the division's website.

TED/MR Update (Calla Kevan)

- New Hire- Mankato TED Specialist position
Kirk Anderson was hired to replace Nancy Karkoska as the TED Specialist in Mankato. He started August 21st and will be serving 29 counties in Southern Minnesota.
- Legislative implementation plan
An internal committee has been meeting to outline an internal plan of implementing three new services for the TED program.
 - Pre-screen TED clients on other assistive technology that could benefit them. They will refer the clients to the DHHS specialist for further follow-up.
 - Assist TED clients with applying for discounted telephone and internet programs such as Lifeline and TAP.
 - TED will add interconnectivity devices to their inventory. TED staff are researching potential devices that can be added to the program and all staff will be trained on them. Kirk shared examples of interconnectivity devices which can include the Echo, streamers to connect with phones, etc.
- The second iPhone/iPad pilot period has ended and a report from TED will be presented to the Department of Commerce/Rochelle Garrow.
- Members did not have any feedback related to Minnesota Relay or CapTel Services.
 - Rochelle Garrow said that there were still many users of Minnesota Relay, including CapTel callers. Some people are more comfortable using a TTY and/or do not have Internet. Rochelle clarified that non-Internet based relay services are under Minnesota Relay and Internet-based services are under the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

Community Advisory Meeting- Member feedback and recommendations (Marie Koehler)

Marie discussed the plan to have three advisory committee meetings and one community advisory meeting in 2020. The idea behind the community meeting would be for the members to help design/plan and somehow play a role in their local community meeting.

MNCDHH Update (Lloyd Ballinger)

- MNCDHH will be at MRID/MADC conference October 17-18th and is sponsoring the Collaborative Experience Conference November 7-9th in Brainerd.
- The MNCDHH Board appointed Darlene Zangara for the Executive Director position, and she accepted the offer. The Governor still has to approve this appointment.
- There is still a vacancy from the Southwest advisory committee to have a representative on the MNCDHH Board. Jacqui is willing to re-submit an application.
- MNCDHH is overseeing the Closed Captioning Champion campaign that encourages businesses to activate closed captioning on their public view televisions.
- The Governor wants Minnesota state agencies to create more opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities to be hired for state jobs. The goal is to hire 10% of employees with disabilities.

There was a discussion about [Connect 700](https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/diverse-workforce/people-with-disabilities/connect700/) (https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/diverse-workforce/people-with-disabilities/connect700/)

Service Gaps and Needs in the Southeast and Southwest Region – Member Input

- Lloyd mentioned that over the years, Mayo Clinic has not hired many individuals who were deaf and hard of hearing. There are barriers within Mayo including Wi-Fi, blue tooth, and low bandwidth. Their VRI is now working thanks to a new IT company serving them. Mayo is moving toward improving their overall accessibility.
- Melissa said that SEMICL now has an assistive technology lab which can loan out technology to individuals on a short term and long term basis. SEMCIL is certified to do assistive technology assessments for clients eligible for county waivers. They have purchased a UbiDuo and are looking for recommendations on what other devices they should have. The contact person is Chanell Calhoun.
- Lloyd asked about alerting devices and weather alerts and if there are grants through FEMA. Lloyd previously attended a town hall meeting in Rochester with FEMA over 6 years ago regarding emergency service/notification in Rochester and Olmsted County.

Date for Next Meeting

A date for the next meeting was not discussed due to the meeting running late. Calla Kevan and Marie Koehler will discuss possible meeting dates and share with members.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INPUT!