

East/West Central Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

December 12, 2017 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Paynesville Area Center, 1105 W Main St. Paynesville, MN 56362

Members: Diane Schiffler-Dobe; Carla Buzzeo; Omar Ibrahim; Judy Leach; Michele Isham; Rosanne Kath; Rebecca Thiesse; Adrienne Haugen

Absent: Shane Grom; Jean Euteneuer; Mary Bauer; Kristin Francois; Melinda Brown; Carol Herberg; Debra Bruflat

Staff: Anne Janckila-St. Cloud Manager; Diane Leonard; Christina Costello; Bruce Hodek- Assistant Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; Jessalyn Ackerman-MNCDHH, Karen Salzl

Interpreters: Jenny Johannes; Sharisse Leier

Note taker: Kris Hulett

Meeting called to order by Diane Schiffler-Dobe.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Two brief changes were made to the East Advisory Minutes from the meeting held on October 17, 2017. All suggested changes were approved.

Member Updates:

Diane: Region 507 had a social activity at St. Cloud State University today for an engagement experience. There was rock climbing and other activities for those who chose to participate.

Carla: A camp near Redwood Falls will have an event for all students in the area. The goal is to hold the event sometime in February or into the beginning of March. This event has been in the planning process for a year now.

Judy: There have been 10 meetings so far for interpreters related to workshops, ethical concerns, etc. to build up networking again. CDIs are always welcome to attend these meetings as well. The goal is to have more interpreters step up to lead our group in 2018. There has also been an interest in bringing in more of a variety with a different skills group the members may have.

Grant money is available for funerals. Families are already struggling so it is very beneficial to have the money through ASLIS available and for others to know it is there. Information on this grant is widely unknown around greater Minnesota and it's hard to find the information. How do we increase awareness? Some common questions people have when they hear about this is "How do we take advantage of this? And how do we let people know this is available?" Please think about this and let the committee know of any ideas you may have. Essentially, funeral homes should be providing interpreter services. Contact information for ASLIS is as follows: 763-478-8936 (voice) or www.aslis.com. Sharisse Leier was present and can start to look into this with ASLIS.

Ade: For many years, there has been work being done on outreach. There is now a group called Minnesota Speaking Deafblind group. So far, the meetings have mainly taken place through e-mail. The group started mainly because of concerns related to the Deafblind Consumer Directed Services. The group is currently looking for a Request For Proposal for grant money so that they can meet in person once per year. The goal is to plan a weekend in a central location (such as Breezy Point).

Karen: Brought some applications for the TED program. The FCC is discontinuing coverage for broadband internet services. The funding for discounted internet for low income people has run out and the FCC chose not to renew that funding.

Christina: Mental Health is still trying to find psychiatric services. More information should be available at the next meeting.

Omar: Filed a complaint against the St. Cloud Hospital. So far, he hasn't heard anything related to his complaint. He called and explained what happened and the hospital sent him to DHHS, assuming that DHHS provides community health workers for Deaf people. The hospital and CentraCare staff don't understand what's needed or the role of DHHS. Many times, family are interpreting in health care settings and it may not be accurate. This is why a community health worker would be beneficial.

Rosanne & Michele: The Commission had a retreat back in November. There are currently four new members on the Commission and many members will be leaving in June.

MNCDHH:

Jessalyn Ackerman was able to join us from the Commission of Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. (PowerPoint attached)

This year is very critical in working with legislators. Please make contact with your legislators.

The difference between MNCDHH and DHHS was also discussed. MNCDHH actually started with regular community members – not state employees.

Director's Update:

Bruce introduced himself and gave a little background to those who have not yet worked with him. Bruce started with the state in 1982. After 30+ years of service, he retired five years ago. Now, Bruce is back on a part-time basis, working about 20 hours per week.

The main difference between MNCDHH and DHHS is that DHHS provides direct services while MNCDHH provides policy work.

The director position closed on November 30. This was the second time this position has been posted.

TED modernization is part of a legislative action. This will require another study to be done in collaboration with MNCDHH. The report from this study should be released to the public in January.

DHHS delivery of services will be evaluated by the Management Analysis Division (MAD). MAD's next meeting is tomorrow. The current office set-up for DHHS is based on a model from the 1980s. MAD will help to analyze other options and ideas for office set-up.

All of the specialists will be doing a review of county services. There are 87 counties in the state of Minnesota. The purpose of the meetings is to analyze the training needs for the counties. Staff will meet one-on-one with county directors for all the counties in their regions.

Mental Health billing is also an area that we are required to study. The mental health services currently offered are free. Some of the options to be considered are a split-pay, where a client's insurance would be billed for what they will cover and DHHS will cover the remaining expenses. In reference to a handout of the grant programs, much of the funding for the programs listed were fought for in the legislature by the MNCDHH.

A member expressed that their TED iPhone was not working correctly and they had to go out and buy a new phone. They also stated they felt the equipment was not good quality that they received from the program. The member was encouraged to contact our office so that we can obtain more information and try to remedy the situation.

Regional Manager Update:

An update was passed out with the agendas at the beginning of the meeting. Text to 9-1-1 is now available statewide.

Jeannie Kolo-Johnson is the acting work out of class manager in Moorhead. There is a posting for a temporary Specialist in the Moorhead office.

For 2018, we are starting a large outreach project. This outreach project is being done in collaboration with TED. Veteran's Service Officers came to the regional office last week. This will help us reach more veterans who may be able to benefit from our services. We will be sending out many letters, setting up meetings, and making phone calls for this outreach project. Please let us know if you can think of anyone or any agency that could benefit from our services and may not know about them.

East/West Central Update:

There has been a group meeting in the west central/southwest for about a year now. They meet in Olivia about once every three months. The group decided they want presentations on health issues and advocating for interpreting services in 2018.

The Disability Awareness Task Force had a celebration of abilities event. The speaker was a girl who was blind and included the barriers she face while growing up blind.

December 9 was the signing Santa event. The gift were donated by KIS. Minnesota Hands and Voices gave a demonstration on apps for parents to use as options for their children.

May 5 is our all day training. This training will be done as a collaboration with DEED. The location has been set for Kandiyohi County Human Services.

CSA had a listening session in Marshall. Diane and Anne participated. The topic is housing concerns. The purpose of the listening sessions is for CSA divisions to meet with community members to hear concerns related to each CSA division (ADAD, MH, and Housing). DHHS participated to share perspectives on hearing loss and how people with hearing loss may experience barriers in those settings.

Diane has been doing a lot more outreach. Recently, she held a training at Hazelden, which is a treatment facility in Center City. Diane partnered with Liz Brown and Mary Bauer from the

metro DHHS office. These were some very in-depth trainings that were taken by more than 900 people. This was possible as some were able to join over the phone or online and included people who work in Hazelden facilities nationwide. Unfortunately this training came as a result of a lawsuit related to communication access.

Meeting Adjourned 4:25 pm