

DHHS ~ METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Anderson, Lynn Bloom, Melinda Johnston, Deanna Rothbauer, Jason Valentine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Brabeck, Ken Hobbins, Joe O'Brien, Jennifer Hume

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Godfrey, sitting in for Jennifer Hume, Jerry Pouliot, Minnesota Relay; Marie Koehler, DHHS Metro Office; Stephen Medlicott and Paula MacDonald, DHHS staff interpreter; Angie Sundell, CART provider; Sarah Maheswaran, TED Program Coordinator; Mary Bauer, DHHS Consultant

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions were made and Laura shared that she hopes to replace Jennifer Hume as a board member since Jennifer resigned from her position at MN Hands and Voices.

II. ACTION ON WEDNESDY, MARCH 10, 2010 MINUTES:

Jason made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Jennifer seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. DHHS UPDATE REPORT:

- Although he retired, Dale Fine will continue to provide training seminars under an annual plan. His hours will be limited.
- Jennifer asked if Curt Micka's replacement (DHHS Assistant Director) plans to network more out in the community and meet service providers. Marie clarified that Carol Mermon, the Regional Manager from the Moorhead Office, was appointed to the Assistant Director position on a temporary, Work-Out of Class basis. She's juggled the assistance director work and continued with her regional manager work. Just last week the Assistant Director position was formally posted for internal bid, the position should soon be filled on a permanent, full-time basis.

IV. TED/MINNESOTA RELAY:

A. Update on the September Implementation of the Wireless Pilot: (Guest Speaker, Sarah Maheswaran)

- Sarah Maheswaran joined the group and shared that the TED wireless project ended March 31. A total of 18 Blackberry Curves and 17 Jitterbugs were distributed. Recipients of the wireless products were surveyed.

Although deaf consumers liked their devices, they found the Sprint process to be complicated. In addition, Sprint charged an activation fee, required a two year contract, and ran credit checks. On the other hand, the Jitterbug process was simple, did not require an activation fee, contract or credit check. TED staff made the decision to continue distributing the Jitterbug, but not the Blackberry. The program still wants to provide some type of PDA to deaf consumers, but they have to research other methods. One thing under consideration is to create a plan that allows consumers to choose their own device and service plan and have them deal directly with the vendor. TED would then reimburse consumers a certain amount of money (not yet determined).

B. Feedback Regarding Minnesota Relay, Including CapTel:

- Jerry shared that Minnesota Relay encourages individuals who experience issues of garbled captioning to contact their program so that they can document these complaints and report them to the Telecommunication Access Minnesota program, FCC and/or Sprint.
- Minnesota Relay staff can assist consumers with the installation of their CAPTEL phone, but the consumer has to sign a waiver saying that relay staff are not responsible for any computer-related issues. Sarah shared that TED staff do not install CAPTEL phones, but consumers who have the regular CAPTEL phone can replace these phones with the CAPTEL 800i

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Member Feedback Related to the ECHO TV Production:

- Members were asked if they had seen any of the aired programs. None had. Lynn said she is waiting for the DVD. Marie reminded members that the program could be viewed on-line. The direct link: <http://www.echominnesota.org/library/does-my-child-have-hearing-loss>

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People at the Twin's Stadium: (Guest Speaker, Mary Bauer)

- Mary served on the Target Field Access Advisory Committee from January 2007 – April 2010. She brought forth many "wish list" items related to access for individuals with hearing loss, and as is the case with many "wish lists," several items were eliminated. Still, the courtesy desk does have amplified phones available and 2 TTYs. (She recommended VPs, but that suggestion was not accepted.) Since there are no "banks of phones" at the stadium, providing TTYs and amplified phones went beyond what the ADA law stipulates. The stadium also has two captioning boards and all of the TVs are supposed to have the Closed Captioning in the "on" position at all times. The Box Office also has ALDs available, and two of the ticket windows have

Audio Induction Loop so that hearing aid users with T-coils just have to turn their T-coils to the "on" position to hear better. Thanks to efforts from individuals who worked on access issues at the Yankees' and Met's stadium, as well as members of the MN Twins Field Access committee, effective 2012, all stadiums and arenas in the United States are required to have Audio Induction Windows.

- Jennifer A. said that she's received feedback from some deaf people that they were not satisfied with the captioning provided at the stadium. She asked Mary for an appropriate contact person at the stadium. Mary said she would find out who to contact.***
- Melinda suggested the stadium consider purchasing a VPZ phone or if they have Internet Service, they could download P3 and have VP service available that way. Mary clarified that the work of the access advisory committee is done.

***** Here is the response Mary received regarding access at the Tart Field:**

Making Target Field accessible for our guests with disabilities is an ongoing commitment. In our efforts to improve accessibility, we welcome all comments and suggestions.

Please direct any comments, suggestions or questions to:

Minnesota Twins
Target Field
1 Twins Way
Minneapolis MN 55403
VOICE: 612-659-3654
TTY: 612-659-3648
FAX: 612-659-4025

B. Be Safe, Be Cool Event:

- A reminder from Marie that schools and parents need to keep this information in mind so that when school starts up in the fall, they can register to attend. Registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

C. Date for September Meeting:

- Members recommended meeting on **September 14** from 10:00 – Noon.
NOTE: This date does work, so please get it on your calendars!

VII. Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans (MCDHH) UPDATE REPORT:

- Jason attended the last MCDHH meeting on May 21. This was his first meeting as an official member. Minutes of the meeting, provided by Jason, were passed out to members (and also shared electronically). Jason said

that as noted in his minutes, he has electronic copies of more detailed information, so if members want any specific information, they can contact him directly. Marie thanked Jason for representing the Metro advisory committee and for his thorough minutes.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Melinda shared that she is no longer employed at Ramsey County as a Social Worker. She hopes to secure a job in Wisconsin where she now lives. If possible, she'd like to remain on the advisory committee. Her new email address is ofangelo@gmail.com.
- Lynn announced that Susan Outlaw, the Curriculum Development staff person at MDS-MNNSA is leaving; she's accepted a job at RID. Her position will not be filled, but a current employee will take over her work. The two schools will also change their name (to a combined name). The new name will either be Metro Deaf School or Metro Deaf Academy.
- Stephen announced that MRID will host its fall conference on October 1 and 2, a different weekend than in the past when it coincided with MEA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 to prepare for the Meet and Greet that followed the meeting.

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE MEETING AND OFFERING YOUR TIME
AND FEEDBACK TO THE DHHS METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE!**