

DHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2012 10:00 - NOON

GOLDEN RULE BUILDING

MEETING CALLED BY	Marie Koehler
FACILITATOR	Jason Valentine
NOTE TAKER	MaryPat Thorp
MEMBERS PRESENT	Lynn Bloom, Laura Godfrey, Deanna Rothbauer, Jason Valentine, Katherine Rose (new member)
MEMBERS ABSENT	Sue Brabeck, Mary Jo Duncan, Joe O'Brien, Jan Swanson
OTHERS PRESENT	Lee Clark, DHHS Central Office; Rochelle Garrow, Department of Commerce; John Fechter, guest; Sharisse Leier and Stephen Medlicott, DHHS Staff Interpreters; Lisa Richardson and Merilee Johnson, CART Providers; Marie Koehler, MaryPat Thorp and Nancy Lovaas, DHHS Metro Office

Agenda topics

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / WELCOME

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.✓ All who were present introduced themselves. Katherine Rose was recently appointed as a new advisory committee member and John Fechter is interested in joining the advisory committee.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES (FROM MAY 22, 2012)

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Laura made a motion to accept the minutes and Lynn seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

DHHS UPDATE REPORT

MARIE KOEHLER

BRUCE HODEK, DHHS DIRECTOR, RETIRING FEBRUARY 2, 2013 – NEW STAFF IN METRO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to filling this position and they are conducting a national search. DHS has reached out to stakeholders such as advisory committee members and other consumers statewide to obtain feedback on what people are looking for in a new director and the ongoing needs for the division. Members were strongly encouraged to offer their feedback. DHS also sought input from DHHS staff.✓ Bruce Hodek was recently honored at a DHS Service Award Ceremony for 30 years of state service.✓ The metro office has a new part-time Administrative Assistant, Nancy Lovaas. She was hired in October to fill the position vacated by Tammy Fairbrother.
PROGRAM ISSUES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Wi-Fi has been installed in the Metro DHHS office space and is available to visitors who attend meetings and events. In addition, DHHS staff will be able to demonstrate some of the newer Wi-Fi capable technology to consumers in our technology lab.

TED UPDATE

- ✓ The TED Program still faces the challenge of keeping up with the ever changing technology and the best way to address the needs of our consumers. Sarah Maheswaran, TED Administrator, provided Marie with the following update: The Future of TED workgroup has once again begun to meet to address sustainability strategies. TED recently added two new amplified cell phones, the Clarity Pal and the Clear Sounds amplified cell phone. Consumers can have a plan with AT& T or T Mobile. TED is also upgrading the CapTel phones from the CapTel 800 and 800i to the CapTel 840 and 840i; the major difference is that the new phones are Wi-Fi capable. Current clients who already have a CapTel phone will not be upgraded unless there is an issue with the current phone they have. A newer speaker phone, called the Fortisimo, was added as well. In addition to distributing the basic Jitterbug amplified cell phone, TED will begin distributing the Jitterbug Touch which functions as a Smart Phone.
- ✓ Rochelle mentioned that Sprint has entered into a special joint project with Communications Services for the Deaf (who oversees Project Endeavor), WCI (distributor of the CapTel) and Feeney Wireless to distribute the CapTel 840i through Project Endeavor. This may interest people if they don't qualify for the TED program or if they may want a second CapTel phone. The offer includes the CapTel 840i, a wireless router and two years of Internet service for \$50. This is a wonderful offer that only goes through January 2013. This project also includes the offer of a CapTel 840, the non-internet based phone, for \$20. Consumers can receive this technology for their home or office. Hamilton Relay is also offering the 840i for \$99.00.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Rochelle will send email about the Project Endeavor program to Marie	Rochelle	

OLD BUSINESS

MARIE

NATIONAL DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PILOT - UPDATE

- ✓ DHHS was awarded federal grant dollars for this program, known in Minnesota as ICanConnect MN. It is a two year grant and Lee Clark will join this meeting later to review the details of the program.

NEW BUSINESS

MARIE

DHHS TRAINING SEMINARS / PROMOTION PLAN (MEMBER FEEDBACK)

- ✓ Marie passed out the DHHS Metro training flyers and asks that members distribute them in their places of work and elsewhere. Registrations have been dropped off dramatically and sadly the last three training seminars were canceled due to low numbers. Marie noted that there is a class description on the back of the training flyer and that the office is in the process of creating individual flyers for each of the trainings. DHHS staff has been working to find applicable websites to post the DHHS training information. New introductory language has been created to stress that these trainings could fulfill diversity training requirements. The owner of the Golden Rule Building, Pat Wolf, has promoted the DHHS training seminars with the St. Paul Better Business Bureau and the Business Owners and Managers Association. Pat has also suggested that DHHS staff set up a table on the 2nd floor of the Golden Rule Building to pass out information about the trainings.
- ✓ Rochelle – mentioned that there is a Metro 9-1-1 Board and they are usually very receptive to opportunities such as the training "For Public Servants: Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Sheriff Personnel". She will get the contact info to Marie.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jason mentioned that at Metro Deaf School they are seeing more and more Somali, Hispanic and Hmong families. He asked if it would help to get the training flyer translated into other languages. Marie pointed out that we rarely get family members at our trainings, and that the trainings are geared more towards service providers and employers. She does like the idea of reaching out to diverse community leaders and drawing more from other communities by working with the leaders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marie asked Laura to speak about Lifetrack's efforts to reach out to the Hispanic community and others. Laura mentioned that they would like to try and hire parents that speak Somali, Hmong, Spanish and ASL. Myra Snaza is being trained in this week as their first Spanish speaking parent guide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rochelle asked about the possibility of providing some of these trainings in the evening so that people who don't work downtown or just can't attend a day-time training could come. She also asked if we target our promotion, for example with a senior center or some other entity like that. Marie responded that we do target our promotions and that staff have gone out to senior centers and other specific areas to train. As for trainings in the evening, the only time we have done this was for law enforcement, and we did this to accommodate their different shifts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Deanna inquired about reaching out to hospitals personnel. She knows of nurses who would like to learn basic sign language to communicate with Deaf patients. We have actually reached out to hospitals in the past, but we can target this group again. Deanna said that the DeafBlind Project also offers trainings and they have difficulty getting people to attend.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Marie clarified that the primary role of the DHHS staff Specialists is to provide direct consumer services and training is a secondary responsibility. This is one of the reasons DHHS started offering most of their trainings in house. DHHS has received inquiries regarding CEUs that may be offered, but this is a challenge because of the variety of training topics offered and the different professionals that attend the training seminars.
<p>OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY MEETING (CAM) {SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS}</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members were given a written summary of the minutes from the Metro Community Advisory Meeting and Marie identified some of the recurring needs expressed at the meeting. DHHS has been hosting these meetings in different communities throughout the state and will compile the minutes from all of the meetings. The information to help guide the DHHS 3-5 year work plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There were strong and recurring needs expressed for Mental Health services for people who are hard of hearing, late deafened and cochlear implant users. There seems to be a lack of support and understanding regarding the unique needs of this group of people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Employment issues were pervasive as well. Problems with employers not addressing the unique needs of people who are hard of hearing. There is still a huge need to educate employers on the importance of providing accommodations in the workplace. DHHS will work with Vocation Rehabilitation to collaboratively address this need area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There were several educators who spoke about the needs of deaf children, and the need for after school activities and mentoring opportunities. Jason spoke about MDS working to socialize the students in after school activities and their attempts to pull in children for this activity from other school districts. Marie mentioned that Humboldt has set up a mentoring group for young male students. They are looking for mentors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ John mentioned that several years ago there was a Jr. NAD, overseen by MADC, but the youth group was not able to sustain itself. He stressed the need to bring back the Deaf Leadership Day for youth.

ICANCONNECT MINNESOTA: GUEST SPEAKER, LEE CLARK FROM DHHS

- ✓ Lee Clark, the DHHS DeafBlind Specialist joined the group to talk about the ICC program in Minnesota that he oversees. He passed out a flyer regarding this new program.
- ✓ October 2012, President Obama signed the 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act. This act gave authority to the FCC to establish a National DB Equipment Distribution Program of \$10 million each year to distribute equipment across the US. This program will run for two years with the possibility of one additional year. MN was awarded \$166,000 for the ICC program to provide equipment to low income individuals who are DeafBlind. To qualify, individuals have to earn less than \$44,000 a year.
- ✓ The goal of the ICC program is for DB individuals to have access to family and friends. The ICC distributes communication accessible equipment to individuals to make this happen. This includes phones, amplified phones, Ipads, cell phones for texting, etc. There is no dollar limit for an individual and more than one piece of equipment is allowed. To date, 40 applications have been received and only 1 person did not meet all of the requirements. Priority is first being given to people that are proficient in using braille.
- ✓ TED program and ICC are separate programs, but function similarly.
- ✓ FCC has rules about training people on how to use the equipment. Lee can do the installation and some basic training with individuals. The FCC says that this program cannot provide computer skills training, or training on how to read braille.
- ✓ The DHHS website has all of the information about the ICC program, including the application form.
- ✓ Lee also spoke about the DeafBlind 101 online training that provides a detailed overview on working with people who have a combined hearing and vision loss. This training is posted on the DHHS website.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- ✓ Thurs, March 14th – 8:30 – 9:45. The meeting will be shorter because there will also be a Meet and Greet Professional Networking Meeting that will follow the advisory committee meeting.

MCDHH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

JASON VALENTINE

DISCUSSION

- ✓ Jason asked members to provide him with input for MCDHH meetings that address the needs and concerns of people with hearing loss. This can help guide the commission as it begins work on its Strategic Planning for the next 5 years. Jason is open to emails, contacting him at work is best at jvalentine@mdsmn.org / or personal at azul.valentine@gmail.com – he does not check this as frequently. Marie mentioned that for MCDHH meetings, the Metro office does provide Jason with brief reviews of barriers, challenges and successes related to DHHS work.
- ✓ Teika Pakalns has resigned from MCDHH; her last day is December 21st. This is a big loss for the Commission.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
✓ Send ideas to Jason	ALL	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL

DISCUSSION

- ✓ Marie / Rochelle – Shared that the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technology is conducting a survey to see what the needs are related to emergency communications. Information was passed out to members to partake in the survey.

Meeting was adjourned at Noon