

DHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2015

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Golden Rule Building

Meeting called by	Marie Koehler
Note taker	Lori Sommerfeld
Attendees	Bob Knoll, Dave McAuliffe, Kathryn Rose, Marie Saliterman, Katy Thorpe
Absent	Mary Jo Duncan, John Fetcher, Kim Fishman, Laura Godfrey, Jason Valentine
Others present	Invited guests: Becky Rosenthal; ASLBlend Sharisse Leier, DHHS staff interpreter; Anne Janckila, DHHS staff interpreter, St. Cloud; Lori from Paradigm, CART provider, Rochelle Garrow (TAM)

Agenda Topics

Call to order / Introductions / Welcome

Marie Koehler

Discussion

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made and members were welcomed. There are two new members to the Advisory Committee – Dave McAuliffe and Katy Thorpe, and a get-to-know-you ice breaker was done.

Acceptance of Minutes (from October, 2014)

Marie Koehler

Discussion

Marie made a couple of edits from the last meeting regarding information from Sarah Maheswaran and Teika Pakalns. The revised minutes were sent out to members. Dave made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Marie Saliterman seconded it. The revised minutes were accepted.

DHHS Update Report

Marie Koehler/Member Discussion

Discussion

The report was sent out for members to review and there were no comments or questions

regarding the update.

TED/MR Update

Marie Koehler

TED Update

TED is moving forward with the creation of a plan to “pilot” the distribution of tablets and smartphones. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was submitted and the proposals received are being reviewed by Sarah Maheswaran, TED Program Administrator. Details regarding the pilot are unknown at this time.

A cost analysis review done by TED staff related to the programs shipping and receiving costs resulted in a plan to have most equipment shipped directly by the vendor from whom the equipment is purchased. This decision resulted in Nadine Grippa’s position being eliminated.

Feedback Regarding MN Relay, including CapTel

The number of Traditional Relay users is dwindling. Many people now use Video Relay Services or texting. Members did not have any feedback for Rochelle related to text relay services.

Marie Koehler

Old Business

DHHS Budget and ADA 25th Celebration Events

From July to September 2014, regional offices faced a pretty strict spending freeze due to the absorption of the 3% salary increases for DHHS employees. DHHS is very fortunate that the Commission stepped forward and provided financial support for this fiscal year. The division’s budget situation for the remainder of FY15 should be fine; it is unclear what the FY16 budget will look like.

The July 9th ADA anniversary celebration has been postponed until October 28th (tentative). The MN State Council on Disability is leading on this event, although several other state agencies (including DHHS Metro) and organizations are involved on 1 or more planning committees. There is a 2nd ADA celebration event scheduled for July 26th at the Minnesota History Center from 12 pm – 4 pm. There will be vendors, entertainment, etc. Volunteers to assist the day of the event are needed, so please let Marie know if you are interested in helping.

New Business

Marie Koehler

Meeting DHHS Staff

The names of Metro DHHS staff are noted in several of the Update Reports that advisory committee members receive, so Marie invited the DHHS Metro staff to introduce themselves

to put a face to the name. Liz Brown is the DHHS Specialist who works primarily with individuals who are deaf and sign. She has been with the division for 17 years. Her key duties are to: work 1:1 with individuals and their family members to help with a variety of issues related to education, housing, legal, collaboration with other agencies for communication access, etc. Liz also works with human service entities as well as schools, hospitals, independent living skills centers, etc. to provide them with direction and options. Nancy Lovaas, is a part-time Administrative Assistant. She provides support to staff, helps maintain documents, takes notes, arranges for meetings, and is the primary contact for the training seminars. Mary Bauer is the DHHS Specialist who works primary with people who are hard of hearing or late deafened. She offers similar services to Liz, but because many of the consumers she works with are new to hearing loss, she focuses a lot on education related to technology and resources (Assistive Listening Devices, financial resources for hearing aid, etc.) Lori Sommerfeld also works as an Administrative Assistant with the Mental Health team as well as Metro team. She provides a lot of technical support for the Division and works closely with IT services.

DHS Reorganization that impact DHHSD

Marie Koehler

Until recently, DHHSD was under the Continuing Care Administration at the Department of Human Services (DHS) and David Rosenthal, the DHHSD Director reported to Loren Colman. David is now reporting to Jennifer Decubelus, a newly appointment Assistant Commissioner. Our division will now be grouped with divisions/units for chemical and mental health, HIV/AIDS, and homelessness. This new group is named the Community Support Administration (CSA).

Revisions to DHHSD website and new URLs

Marie Koehler

All state agencies are transitioning to a new platform and their websites will begin with 'mn.gov'. It has been a huge undertaking to change all of the DHHS documents.

DHHSD received its own URL while other divisions did not, so that was a big win. The old dhhsd.org link will redirect for a year. There is a lot of information missing on the new website and staff is working to get some of it re-posted. Marie would like to see an 'under construction' banner so consumers will know there will be more information coming. If there is information that you as committee members heavily rely on and it is missing, please let Marie know.

Appointment of Advisory Committee Chairperson

Marie Koehler

Laura Godfrey showed interest in being the chairperson to help facilitate the advisory committee meetings and develop the agenda. Marie will follow up with her, but if anyone else is interested, please let her know.

Recommendation/self-nomination to become representative to the MNCDHH Commission

Marie Koehler

One member from Metro's advisory committee must be elected (or self-nominated) to become a representative to the MN Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing advisory committee. This person would represent the DHHSD Advisory Committee at the full

Commission meetings. MNCDHH meets four times a year; meetings are generally 6-7 hours in length. Both Kathryn Rose and Katy Thorpe expressed interest.

Work Innovation and Opportunity Act

Katy Thorpe

This new WIOA law requires state agencies and rehabilitation agencies who work with youth to offer two kinds of services. One is Pre-Employment Training Services (PETS), directed to serve students up to 21 years of age who have not graduated from high school. Currently the funding for this program is VERY limited, but the new law would allow \$1.3 million of the \$5 million to target this group. Students would be able to attend summer programs under the Helen Keller National Foundation, Gallaudet, RIT, University of Minnesota, etc. The other service is for students up to 21 years of age who have graduated. There would be more resources, job coaching, and training for up to 24 months and then these individuals would be transitioned to the county for additional services if needed. The overall goal is to encourage individuals to go to college and invest in their education.

Services offered by ASLBlend

Becky Rosenthal

Becky Rosenthal is the director of ASLBlend, a small nonprofit 501c3, established in 2013. Becky's role is related to organizing workshops and trainings for consumers, interpreters and employers. Jo Lum (who was unable to attend the meeting), focuses on grant writing and funding for the program. Thus far they received funding for 1 of 4 proposals. They recently submitted two additional proposals.

ASL Blend focuses on four areas:

- Interpreting services – For those interpreting services that are not covered by law, ASLBlend will cover them at a very reduced rate or pro bono. There are many gaps in small organization such as churches, funeral services, weddings, AA meetings, and ASLBlend is looking to bridge this gap.
- Community education – ASL mentoring, trainings, workshops/webinars (looking to expand so more people can get CEUs) and ASL classes for families. There are also ASL classes for late deafened adults, Deaf Awareness Training, and Hearing Awareness Training.
- LifeSkills coaching – This is on the wish list due to lack of funding. It would be an opportunity for deaf adults to meet with deaf children/adults from 16-21.
- DeafBlind services – Also on the wish list.

You can help by volunteering, contracting with ASLBlend for interpreting jobs, etc. There is a screening for pre-certified interpreters. ASLBlend also wants to offer CART services, but they are still looking for funding.

Date for Next Meeting

Marie Koehler

The next DHHS Metro advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 from 8:30 -

10:15; directly following this meeting will be a Meet & Greet Professional Networking meeting which members are invited to attend.

MCDHH Announcements

Marie Koehler

March 4 is Meet With Your Legislator Day. Due to significant construction taking place at the Capitol there will not be the traditional “rally” in the rotunda.

Announcements

Committee Members

Deaf Cultural Center and Its New Program (Dave)

Dave has been working with the state of Kansas and DeafFriendly to have businesses be more accommodating and deaf friendly. Also, there is the Deaf Network of Texas that sends out a weekly email and it would be nice if we could do something like that in Minnesota.

Deaf Cultural Center and Its New Program (Dave)

Dave mentioned Marlee Matlin’s educational video on how a police officer should do when pulling over an individual with a hearing loss. Dave would like to be more active with the police about what to do/what not to do. Marie mentioned that DHHSD Metro partnered with others years ago to offer DeafSafe training seminars to the community, but low attendance was an issue. Dave mentioned that there is another related video training headed up by interpreter Tarra Grammenos. (NOTE: This video was located and Marie sent the video link to members.)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:02a.m.

**AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE DHHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AND OFFERING YOUR TIME AND FEEDBACK!**