

# SE Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2008

Present: Jeff Erickson, Amy Deneen, Teri Schwalbach, Doug Marquardt, Sue Gensmer, Danella Bohland, and Nancy Karkoska

Not Present: Paula Detjen

Guests: Curt Micka, Teika Pakalns, Lyle Felsch and Mike Schram

Interpreter: Brenda Needum

Notetaker: Teri Schwalbach

## Introductions:

### Smoke Detectors: Deputy Fire Chief Lyle Felsch

- Grant was written to purchase smoke detectors that are inter-connected with a strobe light.
- 200 kits were ordered.
- The detectors need to be hooked up by electricians (donate time) there is not monies to pay for installation.
- Needed to identify folks in the community who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing? ● Danella has written an application form for individuals to apply for the detectors, education on fire safety. Fire prevention night in October week of 10/9/08. ● Danella will designed a flyer to get the word out regarding the fire prevention night.
- Curt asked about carbon monoxide detectors – yes true but no enforcement price to it.

### KAAL-TV6 News: Mike Schram, Manager

- Applied for state grant monies to have open captioning on news broadcasts. ● Worked with Amy McQuaid, DHHSD planner with the implantation of this grant. ● David ??, boss and Heather Holmes, Marketing Director.
- Severe weather/breaking news (5pm, 6pm, 10pm) three times a day.
- Jeff viewed during storms this summer -- he compared stations TV6 had what was needed.
- Five counties in Minnesota and six counties in Iowa receive services from this station. Tower is West of Austin – also Owatonna, Faribault, and Mankato. ● 145,000 households in DMA; reaches out to 1/2 million people depending on method of reception.
- Family owned. Hubbard family.
- Real-time during election? Yes. Local/debates??

### Get Out the Vote: Teika Pakalns, 2008 Get Out The Vote Coordinator

- Special project with MN Commission Deaf & HH (Cynthia Weitzel)
- Encourage deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing individuals to get out and vote.
- Working on Getting Out the Vote till November 4. 1) Voter Registration – remind them to vote on Nov. 4; 2) Accessibility for candidate forums. Contact Teika with info and questions.
- Focusing on voters who are 18.
- Cynthia is setting up a youth race to be voting. Any teachers interested in participating please let Cynthia know.
- There will be three events in the Twin cities 1) 9/20/08 – ASL Expo at River Centre; 2) 9/27/08 – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at a Twins Game and voter registration; 3) St. Paul College (TBI) Deaf Salon – “Decision 2008” hope to have community presenters. People need more info on issues.
- End of October – Deaf Services Dinner.
- Doug suggested maybe she could come to Deaf Club the 4th Saturday in September - Deaf Club very appropriate. Let her know regarding events.
- If not race here – local- let her know MCDHHH will co-sponsor to make it successful.
- We have no control over advertisements regarding candidates offering captioning. Let Cynthia know if we have important ads in our area so we can get the info out to folks.

### **Staff Updates:**

#### MCDHH Representative Amy Deneen:

- Commission Plan has been allot of work.
- MN Hands & Voices – fits under LifeTrack – contact all families with children who have a hearing loss.

#### DHHS Consultant Danella Bohland:

- Deaf Mentor – trained to go into homes to teach sign language. Three families have been participating this summer.
- Peer Visiting SEMCIL – take out ?? activities – Ann Peterson.
- Terry Tauger and Danella have been doing joint presentations to Senior Center Sites.
- Workshop on Fire Safety.
- Application form for smoke detectors.

#### Mental Health Specialist Terry Tauger:

- Currently has 12 deaf and hard of hearing clients and their families.
- Developed relationships with various clinical providers, professional organizations, human service agencies, etc.
- Presented at the 2008 Age and Disabilities Odyssey Conference in Duluth.
- Hand out is on file.

#### TED Specialist Nancy Karkoska:

- Currently is serving individuals in 29 counties – she is covering Tracie Henning's territory while she is out on maternity leave.
- 46 initials a month.

- Wireless pilot program is based in the Metro and St. Cloud area. This program will distribute cell phones or pagers to individuals who qualify. The phones/pagers are free but the consumer is responsible for paying the monthly service fee. After one year will assess the project and if all goes well will promote it statewide.
- Statewide Survey was conducted and the results are back.
- PR – referral predominantly from professionals, telephone companies (promote us), relay service.

Assistant Director Curt Micka:

- Works with regional offices on budgets, operating monies. Received a \$200,00 cut in budget 7/08 – 6/09. Eliminating 2 positions (one in Bemidji) another mental health position in Mankato. Had to cut \$84,000 in mental health services. We're going to see budget cuts in the future. If more cuts – Regional offices will be felt – cutting back on regional forums, employee travel, demonstrative equipment. Next year maybe even more cuts. Talk with legislatures.
- This fall – task force mental health services serving deaf/hard of hearing kids.
- Identify service gaps – train more professional make them aware of services.
- Intensive behavioral health services.

Regional Manager Jeff Erickson:

- Staff vacancy in Mankato office.

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting is December 5.**