

SE Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 9, 2009

Present: Sue Gensmer, Mary Ellen Bondhus, Paula Detjen via phone conference, Jeff Erickson, Danella Bohland, Tracie Henning, and Terry Tauger

Not Present: Teri Schwalbach, and Doug Marquardt

Guest: Rubin Latz, Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Rapid Response Intervention Services: Rubin Latz (see handouts)

- Rapid Response Intervention services and supports are intended to respond to any employer/employee in Minnesota where job retention or promotion is jeopardized by hearing loss and communication issues.
- Not limited to serving clients who are already working with VRS but anyone who is working and has a hearing loss.
- Program got underway mid-August.

Staff Updates:

TED Program: Tracie Henning

- Wireless project is a 2 year pilot project. The program was implemented Sept. 1. Phones being distributed are the Blackberry, Sanyo Kanata and Jitterbug. ●The Blackberry is for data only. Cost is \$29.99. Consumer is responsible for cost.
- Jitterbug is geared more for Seniors. It has large numbers and when you open the phone you have a dial tone. Service plans are the responsibility of the consumer.
- Sanyo Kanata is a hearing aid compatible cell phone. Plans vary depending on the number of minutes. Consumer is responsible for the monthly service plan.
- CapTel 800I - the TED program has just started distributing the new CapTel phone. This phone does not use an analog line an individual would need high speed internet service. Captions can be turned on/off during a call. (see handouts)

DHHS Consultant: Danella Bohland

- Danella informed the committee that two individuals' jobs were saved by purchasing the CapTel phone, The business/agency was able to try out the CapTel phone prior to purchasing the equipment. The business/agency borrowed the equipment from the Pathways to Employment program.

MCDHH Representation:

- Currently do not have a MCDHH representative from the Rochester office.

Parent Guide Report: Mary Ellen Bondhus

- Mary Ellen replaces Amy Deneen as the new parent guide for Hands and Voices organization. Mary Ellen will represent SE Minnesota.
- Eddie Collaboration is where new babies are diagnosed with a hearing loss and that follow up is being done by a parent. What groups are we missing; will do follow up with audiologists.
- Some of the borders have been redesigned.
- Received 25 new referrals.
- Would like to provide a workshop for parents' topic "Identity, Self-Esteem, & Resiliency" presenter is Alison Aubrecht/DHHSD Mental Health Program.

Other Business:

- Sue Gensmer asked if Danella/Terry is still planning a safety workshop here in Rochester like they did in Faribault. Has been put on hold for the time being.
- Terry Tauger would like to start a Parent Group.
- Paula Detjen: MSAD has a few new students, hired two new psychologists and two teachers, added a new security system and lighting and keyless entry to buildings.
- Jeff will do a new schedule for the upcoming Advisory Committee meetings. Meetings will still be on Fridays.

Respectively Submitted by,

Dawn Crowson
DHHSD Admin Assistant