

SE AC Meeting Minutes  
Oct 26, 2010

Attended: Jerry P, Sue G, Nancy, Tracy, Carol, Mary Ellen (1 ½ year)

Budget Consolidation-

Sue rep for the commission  
Advisory committee handbook

Sue-

Introduced everyone

How the commission and AC-

Carol-thanked Sue to attend the Commission  
Tracy will be working with sue re: report to commission  
DHH and commission celebration-mini celebration of the bigger meeting with the AC  
Sue Role-what has brought up at the AC and Bring to the Commission-went through the  
PD-sue/parent, mary ellen/parent and parent guide  
Will elect chairperson – usually the rep commission is the chairperson  
#2 and 3 real important re: accessibility

Relay – Jerry listedn to concerns re: relay does some training to agencies re: relay, vp, video – jerry is more about landline – questions re: VP and TTY

Mary Ellen – hands and voices/advisory notes

Safety fair – for schools in Twin Cities – 300 kids attended – talked about safety  
New Parent Packet changes  
Work with MDH – referrals with newborns-follow up with parents. Be sure to go on to early intervention services. What all communications-what is available-support for parents of newly diagnosed child-help parent become advocates for themselves.  
Packet (1) MDH binder-for the Audiologists with inserts for parents to put papers in.  
Family Picnic in August  
Fall event families go to apple orchard/Mazeppa  
Corn maze, hayride 55 mix with deaf and HH families  
Eddie Early Hearing Detections intervention start Rochester.  
Started teams with Mayo and Olmsted and Faribault – Region 10 has 2 teams – individual teams and regional teams0  
North region 10 – Eddie/Faribault  
South Region 10 – Eddie team/Rochester  
Letter first      Audiology will inform parent someone will call Hands and voices after the parent guide talks to them – send out packet  
Referral – about 4 every 3 months

Parent Packet can be overwhelming  
Department of health informs Hands and Voices  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – packet will be online  
New Beginnings Book

Jerry – Are they introduced to other parents in the area- Mary Ellen – does training parents to work with parents

DHS Consolidation –

DHS mandate cut 17.5 million – 117 positions were cut last 3 months early retirement several opted for retirement. Cuts, salaries, rent – Rochester – close to double - than Mankato rent office gave up state cars. \$500,000 in cuts last couple of years cut from grants – try to use some federal monies – this year 350,00 greater MN assessment service – looking at ways to recoup children mental health and families to see if they can rake on deaf.

Have not filled behind vacancies – retirements and resignations - 6 positions not filling - will hire a consultant

Tracy has 3 – getting close to hire consultant on a temp basis – Tracy WDC – will continue to give services.

Look at basic needs of people – referral to employment and education. Home health care and mental health needs –

Nancy taking on the southern area

Services will continue

Olmsted county will allow is to use some space to provide services – transfer will 800

Do less of is how to respond to trainings and presentations/statewide trend – will continue to present to agencies.

Work plan does the whole region

Workload – service needed – region – Deaf/HH – counties.

Depend on situation how soon CH is seen? Response time has quick

Mary Ellen – families need assistance in filling out papers – would still be available if they need assistance – Carol – advisory – to hearing families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child – referral where to get assistance.

Deaf Mentor – 3 families – had not time to set-up appointments with them.

Follow up questions – please call us/AC members.

Nancy – Serving South – 19 to 29 counties – flooding flyers sent to contact Nancy – some areas still out of their home – processing apps – getting ready for the move.

Tracy – clients served 3 files – 25 documented – normally 10-15; busy working with clients – most know dual role.

MN Hands and Voices – Attend in August.

Jan – ice skating party – started 11 years ago – cross cultural activity in SW for January All Seasons Arena, Mankato January 12

Terry – 21 active cases in southern MN

Alison presented to St Louis county human service in Duluth – mental health in rural areas.

Sara – working different projects – Sara, Paula and Tracy – After the move

Sue move to Mankato - Perfect location – more collaboration with rehab services.

Mary Ellen – where will we meet – AC or are we done? Will continue to meet, Olmsted county agreed to use space – AC will continue.

Next MCDHH meeting is November 19 –

Meeting adjourned at 4pm



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Tracy

October 26, 2010

RE: MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATE

The DHHS Mental Health Services Program continues to grow in scope in Southern Minnesota. Currently, there are twenty-one active cases across the entire Southern Region and via Telemental Health to other areas of the state. As we continue to serve the mental health needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Blind and Low Vision consumers, we have identified specific service needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Blind and Low Vision consumers in rural areas, and ways to adapt our service model to accommodate these specific communities.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Alison Aubrecht and I presented at the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference in Duluth, MN regarding our clinical experiences in rural areas. We are pleased to document our observations and clinical adaptations with rural Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Blind and Low Vision in collaboration with Neil Glickman in a book chapter soon to be published.

The impact of Somali Refugees in Southern MN has made way to the DHHS caseload. A team of Mental Health Specialists, Program Consultants, and interpreters attended a DHS sponsored, "Visions of Success: Seeing & Supporting Success in Minnesota's Somali Community." The stark realities of these refugees demand our attention and time, in terms of case management, mental health, and welcoming support.

As the Southern DHHS offices consolidate services, Mental Health Programming will remain intact. Referrals can be made to Dr. John Gourmaris or Terry Tauger, LICSW.

Terry Tauger, LICSW  
Mental Health Specialist

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**The Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing**

**Minnesotans Meeting**

**Minutes - May 21, 2010**

**MCDHH Offices, Golden Rule Building**

**85 East 7th Place, Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55101**

**Members Present: Tom Anderson, Tracy Lindemer, Dave Kyler, Alan Parnes, Dr. Sue Rose, Jason Valentine, Michele Isham, Tom Lehman, Lyle Hoxtell, Sue Gensmer, Jill Rohman, and Bruce Hodek.**

**Interpreters: Lauri Krouse. Stephen Medlicott, Sharisse Leler.**

**Staff: Mary Hartnett, Cynthia Weltzel, Jamie Taylor, Kay Chiara.**

**Visitors: Mary Cashman Bakken, Rena Rogers, Ryan Dolan, Alina Schroeder, Joan Breslin-Larson, and Wendy Wallstein**

**1) Introductions and Communication Ground Rules: Introductions and communication ground rules were made.**

**2) Education**

**Deaf Education Summit Summary – Michele Isham & Mary Hartnett gave highlights from the Summit co-hosted by MCDHH & the MN Dept of Education: Brief Summary submitted. Eighteen (18) states were in attendance remotely. Many State & National Organizations were represented including, teachers at all levels, parents, audiologists, and administrators from many organizations. Powerpoint from the Summit Presenters was shared. The group proposed that we develop a data driven state wide education plan, that MCDHH coordinate the process and that MDE and MDH be the leads.**

**Ann Bailey – Thinking Through Improvement Ann gave us an introduction to the IT kit which she described as an "Improvement Tool Kit" – not a train the trainer type of program but an actual workbook designed to be used to make the acquisition of data meaningful, through honing a set of transferrable skills, to track improvements within a system. Her process is a two (2) day facilitation program, which includes PowerPoint slides, workbook, and the IT kit, all on a CD.**

**3) Approval of the Jan 2010 Minutes - Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the January Minutes. Motion passed.**

**4) Education Continued.**

**Survey by Commission from Dr. Sue Rose – Dr. Rose and Joyce Daugaard of the U of M conducted a survey to see what kind of data teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing are using in the classroom. We received 85 responses, which represent about 60% of the students in the state. The data is from 30-40% of the teachers, with an additional 7% of those polled being administrators. Two or three were speech/language pathologists, who serve deaf and hard of hearing students in lieu of teachers of the deaf. Over half of the teachers are itinerant, serving multiple schools; and over half are people who have more than 15 years of experience. Overall 61% of the students represented are below reading level for their grade. Of the students represented 810 receive direct service, and 277**

**Digital Library Grant – Oral/Signing History Project** - A large collection of historical material was scanned and added to the Minnesota digital library from Thompson Hall. These will be able to be viewed online. MCDHH will present before the Minnesota Historical Society on Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> for a grant to preserve Oral/Signing History.

**8) Elections – Plan for community outreach to encourage people to register to vote, and to follow through on a lot of the initiatives that we’ve actually incorporated into state law.**

Remind candidates that they need to be captioning their adds – they can go to a website and easily learn how to do this for themselves.

Vote 18 – Mary asked the Commission for permission to use some funds for this new nonpartisan project, that involves getting transition aged young adults interested in voting. It’s fun and interactive.

Voting Vide Candidate Forum – Non-partisan candidate forums that have interpreters present and can be filmed to demonstrate the debate procedure.

**9) Legislative Summary –**

- Advocating for Metro Deaf School and Minnesota North Star, in order to repair the hold back of monies the schools needed to stay in business.
- Amended a Web Master Bill to include Accessibility Guidelines.
- Reinstated \$169,000 of cuts back to DHHSD.
- No cuts to employment programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Amendment to the Human Rights Act - Accessible records are required for all levels of State Government; punitive damages can be awarded if there is a lawsuit - to be implemented in 2013.

**10) Minnesota Budget Project – Summary and Budget Implications for Next Year – Nan Madden an initiative from the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits. Ms. Madden shared her handouts to accompany the PowerPoint presentation. The state deficit that needs to be resolved in the next two (2) years is close to 20% of the state’s general fund or about \$7.4 billion. <http://www.mncn.org/bp/raisingrevenue.html>**

**11) Commission Member Reports/Announcements/Discussion**

**12) Meeting adjourned.**