

Advisory Committee Meeting

Southeast

ABC Inc. 1911 14th St. NW Rochester, MN

November 29, 2016 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Members: Wes Brandenburger, Missy Brenhaug, Annette “Nettie” Peters (via phone conference), Ridge Euler

Guest(s): Marisa Bocangera, David Springer

Absent: Lloyd Ballinger, Chandra Petersen, Kim Hicks, Regina McAlear

Staff: Tracy Bell

Interpreter(s): Mike Provancha

Note taker: Natalie Regenscheid

Community Updates:

Missy Brenhaug:

- Missy Brenhaug is a senior advocate in Olmsted County, she helps seniors with resources in the community, Medicare, Insurance, support, transportation, and linking them to progress.
- Missy would like to learn more about hearing loss, Tracy suggested that Missy take a look at the TPT website, to view the Hearing Loss Matters video.

Wes Brandenburger:

- The LOOP systems have been added to the cafeteria after its remodel and are now complete in the cafeteria and meeting rooms, there are microphones on the ceilings with t-coils. The sound system turned out really nice, exceeded Wes’s expectation. They are slow with the new technology systems but they provide new members assistive technology and loan equipment to help them make decisions before purchasing new assistive technology. The library has about 600 equipment and the public can borrow equipment for 30 days. The Comfort Duett is one of the most popular equipment for people with hearing loss.

Ridge Euler:

- 221 people attended the 37th Annual MDBA banquet in Minneapolis, there were 44 deaf blind attendees. The banquet consisted of great food, raffles, baskets that had variety of things, prizes that ranged from a 50 inch TV to tickets to a two night stay at a hotel and tickets to a performance theatre. Interpreters were available to deaf, blind, and deaf blind attendees. The banquet is open to everyone, it is a good experience.

Nettie Peters:

- The Allina hospital has established a new system for on-call interpreters.
- The new Superintendent has established enrollment for both schools (MSAD and MSAB) in Faribault and wants to provide more outreach for other school districts.
- Laws, policies, financial aspects of the schools are expected to increase enrollment for both blind and deaf children.
- The deaf school will have a holiday program on December 2nd at 9:30am.
- Partnering with workshops for interpreters, the first workshop will be in December, still waiting on choosing a date but will keep everyone posted.

DHHS Updates:

Tracy Bell:

- Natalie is our new OASI, happy to have her.
- The DHHS specialist position was recently posted last week on Wednesday, hoping to do interviews next week.
- Wes inquired about the DHHS study. Tracy said there was a community meeting in October that discussed the gap in services, found that transportation is a large gap. People are unaware of the TED program, they don't know that the TED program provides not only TTY, but other services as well.
- There is another meeting tomorrow, will be talking more about gaps. The managers will create a report to send to legislature, the policy people will look at it, and then it will continue up the ladder. We will also discuss about additional funding, allocating additional funding for our services among other things.
- Everything else is pretty much the same. There have been a lot of presentations, will be doing the Veteran's Stand Down project sometime this spring. 108 iPhones and iPads were distributed from the TED program, the surveys are done as of October for the pilot study, iPhones and iPads will continue to be distributed to those who qualify until February or until money runs out.
- David's update talks about the DHHS and TED studies as mentioned before, there will be another meeting tomorrow involving representatives from DHHS Advisory Committees statewide, and Thursday/Friday select DHHS staff and managers will meet to create a strategic plan. He also wants to say thank you for being members of the AC, he appreciates you being here.
- From the Mankato area, we will be hosting our 17th annual ice skating event in January. It is a great opportunity for students that are deaf and hard of hearing to come together from different schools, the MSU mascot will be there which is nice because he doesn't talk, he only does gestures. Last year 35-40 kids attended.

Guest Speaker(s):

Marissa Bocangera:

- Provides resources, workshops, outreach programs, and relationships for domestic violence and human trafficking. Received positive reviews on Facebook accounts for support and providers.

Positioned in Belle Plaine, Winona, and Albert Lea. They just hired a new advocate for the CSD Domestic Violence program. They are looking for another office in the Rochester area.

- CSD Domestic Violence Program is looking for donations for self-care for children during the month of December. They are collecting now throughout the entire year. Lisa Wasilowski led the drive in the past. They will accept toothbrushes, toiletries, things that we use on a daily basis. They will also accept clothing for men, women, and children. Even if an item is \$1 or money is donated, it will make all the difference we need to improve lives. Nettie Peters and Marisa will touch base for outreach in the Faribault area.
- As of now, we have 25 clients and their families. We do home visits, advocacy services. Marisa has hours at the Hope Center in Faribault on Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. Tracy asked about doing training together – since DHHS staff do some training with crisis centers such as the CADA House in Mankato, and Marisa said to please invite her to co-present.
- Very few interpreters are trained for domestic violence, it is hard to find a trained interpreter in hospitals so the victims will have to use VRI. In Bloomington they have domestic violence training for interpreters at Cornerstone. Would like to provide more training for interpreters. Mike Provancha and Marisa will be in touch to discuss future workshops for interpreters.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, January 31 at 10 am, at ABC. Tracy will ask David Springer if he would like to come to this meeting. Tracy asked about ideas for future meetings such as presentations or other information members would like to know. Wes suggested having someone talk with us about the WIOA and how it may impact consumers, and Wes also suggested having someone talk about the Olmsted Act. Tracy will follow up on this.