

Advisory Committee Meeting

Southeast

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Members: Wes Brandenburger, Missy Brenhaug, Annette "Nettie" Peters (via phone conference), Ridge Euler, Kim Hicks

Guest(s): David Springer, Bethany Stoltenberg, Sarah Lawrence

Absent: Lloyd Ballinger, Chandra Petersen, Regina McAlear

Staff: Tracy Bell

Interpreter(s): Jason Nygren

Note taker: Natalie Regenscheid

Community Updates:

Nettie Peters:

- Academy is working with their budget, they hope to continue the provided budget instead of receiving a lower budget.
- The academy is going into a new semester, there will be a drama play in March. Friday and Saturday there will be interpreters provided, there will not be an interpreter on Thursday.
- A few students from the academy will be attending Lobby Day, there will also be a few deaf blind students attending as well. Lobby Day is a chance for consumers to attend and learn more about the different laws and have a chance to speak with a few different representatives to discuss any concerns or suggestions.
- Currently working with District One Hospital-Allina to look at ways to better provide interpreters after hours. There are a few agencies involved, KIS and ASLIS are also trying to work out a plan. The hospitals that need coverage are in Rice County-Northfield Hospital and District One Hospital in Faribault.

Wes Brandenburger:

- There isn't much update. Still working on the contract with the state for the Assistive Technology program.

Ridge Euler:

- Discovered RTT from the Minnesota Deaf-Blind Association. RTT is Real Time Text, all cell phones will have RTT, it is an easier and faster way to communicate in real time, and it is similar to texting. There are no applications, have not yet tried it but looking forward to having the chance to test it out and see how it works.

Missy Brenhaug:

- Finally have the Elder Network resource available to consumers to learn more about Memory Loss. It does not include information about Hearing Loss, will have to work on including that as well because some memory loss cases can be related to hearing loss.
- Chronic Workshops...open to anyone. 6 week workshop to learn more about chronic illnesses.

Kim Hicks:

- February 12 at 2pm will be hosting a Disability Forum, great opportunity for the public to discuss any issues, concerns, questions, or suggestions. The forum will consist of Disabilities and Health Care. Representatives Liebling, Quam, and Bakk will be attending which is another great opportunity for the public to speak with them. They are looking to gain feedback from the community with disabilities.
- If need any additional information, accommodations, transportations, contact me directly and I will set everything up.
- Very excited about this forum because it will focus on advocacy, transportations, education, housing as well as special education laws.

MNCDHH Updates:

- Legislative updates for MNCDHH:
 - Commission voted to support three measures:
 - Support funding and infrastructure requests for the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf
 - Support increased funding for Deaf ABE (Adult Basic Education) provided in ASL
 - Required that a student's need for assistive technology be considered when developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP)
 - Still awaiting to hear from legislature about budget.

DHHS Updates:

Tracy Bell:

- Mike Provancha started as our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist on January 13. He has taken over my case load of Deafblind consumers under the Deaf Blind Consumer Directed Services. Mike is also coordination the Hearing Aid Bank.
- Our 17th Annual Ice Skating even held on January 4th was a success with 35 deaf and hard of hearing students from area schools. We appreciate the generosity from our sponsors-MNHV, ASA, McDonald's, MSU/Stomper, Mayo Clinic Physical Therapy. Feedback that was received was positive and recommended that we host the event at a later date in the month because most students are returning to school from winter break early in the month.
- Updates from the Central Office:
 - TED program iPhone/iPad pilot will accept last day of applications on February 1. Results since last summer: 141 people in Minnesota received a device. Ages 40-59, received 49. Ages 60-79, received 49 devices. Ages 80+, received 12. Ages 25-39, received 12. Ages

10-24, received 15. Still unknown if the program will continue, still collecting surveys and it will be determined on a later date if the TED program will begin distributing such devices.

- Deaf Blind Consumer Directed Services, there are a few open slots in some region, if you know anyone in other regions that could use services, please contact us.
- TTAP (technology and Training Access Program) is up and running. This program is ideal for those who are deafblind and are not a fit for DBCDS. This program will allow access for technology, equipment and training in order to become self-sufficient. The more funds used for this program, the better for planning. Legislative will determine if TTAP will be funded beyond this fiscal year.
- MH program is seeking certified interpreters in MN who are interested in interpreting in mental health settings to attend the Mental Health Interpreting Institute in Montgomery, Alabama this summer. Financial assistance is available and applications are due March 6. See flyer.
- Webconnect event with ASLIS will be on Saturday, February 4. They are hosting a panel discussion about interpreters and deaf consumers' rights via a state wide webconnect event. Mankato will be one of the webhub locations. See handout.
- Regions Hospital will be hosting their annual Spring Workshop on June 2. The topic is Informed Trauma and Resiliency. Candice Tate from Georgia will be the presenter. See handout.
- All Day Training in St. Cloud will be on May 4, flyers will be handed out. Topic is "Dispelling the Myths", discussing hearing loss, technology and communication. Contact Diane if interested in attending.
- Director's Updates:
 - November 30, 2016 Strategic Planning Process meeting was held with DHHSD Regional Advisory Committee members, community partners and MNCDHH staff. Reviewed situational analysis, identified obstacles, and defined high level strategies for the purpose of helping DHHSD define its vision.
 - On December 1 & 2, 2016, DHHSD staff worked together and developed a mission, vision, as well as specific strategies and implementation plans. This became the basis for a strategic plan DHHSD will act on for the next 3-4 years. There are 7 focus areas:
 - Modernize DHHSD and TED statutes by updating legislative language.
 - Staffing and Organization through modernizing our statewide service delivery system.
 - External Partnerships and Collaborations through strengthening and expanding external relationships.
 - Internal Partnerships and Organizational Communication via enhancing relationships within DHS.
 - Outreach and Visibility by promoting our services to consumer and service providers.
 - Training designed to improve Minnesota's capacity to meet the needs of people with hearing loss.
 - Interpreting Services through enhancing interpreting service availability statewide.

- Legislative report based on the two studies of DHHSD and TED is completed and is in the hands of the DHS Commissioner for approval before being submitted to the Legislative Research Office. Once it is released to the legislators, this document will become public information.
- Thank you for your participation on the Advisory Committee and as always look forward to your input and feedback as we move forward with our strategic planning process!

Guest Speaker(s):

David Springer:

- Working on Real life time captioning, it costs \$88/hour to have real life captioning on the news. The money comes directly from the news budget.
- Voice to text technology will work for the TV however it is not required but important to us to have available. We have documented a couple of errors, we will continue to document errors so we can create more room for improvement. So far we have documented 11 problems in the last quarter, in the beginning of this quarter we have documented 3 issues.
- We have a 2 year contract with LNS captioning, if there is no live captioning, we must wait for the script before airing the news.
- Would like to know the number of people that are deaf and hard of hearing in the area to give us a better idea with how important the real life captioning is on the news.
- Expressed some concerns with technology updates, it will change the TV system. TV news will be converted to Spectrum Option, which will be all online-thus creating a pain to get everything set up and running smoothly. The younger generation use internet services to get information fast, they do not care for anchors or weather reporters, they do not feel the connection that the older generation feels. The older generation will feel connected with News anchors and choose which news network they prefer based on that. When they feel a connection and feel they can trust the anchors, they tend to be loyal to the news program. With the younger generation, that will change. In about 10-20 years everything will become available online. Phone apps will become available and display the latest news updates throughout the day. It will be a continuation of news updates rather than the 6am, 9am, 6pm, 10pm news reports. When the phone news apps become available, we might not have the TV news reports. Will be interesting to see how everything will turn out and how it will affect the news program groups. Star Tribune is currently becoming digital, so it will be interesting to see how that goes.
- On TV we must provide captioning however when the news are on the internet, we do not have a rule that states we must provide captioning but it might be available.

Awaiting for dates for next meeting. Members will have to determine best date for everyone to be available to see Sarah Gutzman's presentation about the WIOA and how it may impact consumers.