

Advisory Committee Meeting

Southeast

ABC Inc. 1911 14th St NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Monday, June 12, 2017

Members: Wes Brandenburger, Chandra Petersen, Missy Brenhaug, Nettie Peters

Guest(s): Christine Olson-Workforce Center

Absent: Regina McAlear, Kim Hicks, Ridge Euler

Staff: Mike Provancha, Tracy Bell, PG Kelly

Interpreter: Becky Lukkason

Note taker: Natalie Regenscheid

Community Updates:

Wes Brandenburger:

- Working on referral technology, helping with some services, reviewing rules and regulations.
- Assistive technology program is going well, we still want to provide as much as possible to the community.
- Some new communication equipment such as streaming wireless, VRI are in the process of evaluating different software.

Chandra Petersen:

- Received approval of VR budget, received 7 million dollars and the money will allow us to keep one service open with VR.
- Cannot accept new people until October 4, most are on the waiting list. We have been serving one category for 3 years now based on our funding. If consumers meets all of the criteria, they will receive approval for our services.
- Went to Austin for work training two months ago from MSAD to do interviewing, skill assessment, and feedback. Trying to get all contracts written before July 1st.
- Always struggled with agencies as to who provides the interpreters, now we have determined that if the agency is providing a service, they must also provide an interpreter.
- We have a new Regional Manager. There is a new VR counselor in Rochester and a new counselor in Austin.

- Have been undergoing a lot of work training lately.

Nettie Peters:

- MSAD has been undergoing a lot of changes. We now have mass communications on campus. New badges, new feeder message boards, TVs everywhere, a lot more resources for communication. New dorms will be established, the target date for this is sometime in November.
- In August we will be hosting a Hand Stand workshop that teaches ASL for families.
- Next year hope to have two programs for interpreters, one in the fall and one in the spring. The fall program will focus on IEP whereas the spring program will focus on drama.
- MSAD has a new director. New special ed director. We still have a ASL Specialist position available and looking for someone to fill this, this person is required to have a master's education.
- Working with hospitals to get more interpreter coverage in Faribault. Would like to have an on call interpreter available all night long in case of emergencies.

Missy Brenhaug:

- Learning a lot and facing good challenges with Olmsted. Have had coworkers struggling with providing interpreters.
- We complete a whole risk assessment with clients to establish hearing loss and services that may be needed.
- Students recently attended some ASL performances. Teachers hope to continue these smaller activities.

Christine Olson, WIOA:

- Provided handouts, brochures and presentation.
- Working on collaboration, working with people we have not met before. The goal is to make sure students are not being taken advantage of. Schools provide traditional services as well and college and work preparation but as we meet with students, we find that we can provide more information to help them with the transition to college or work.
- We do not focus on the traditional job search in which you read the job description, instead we focus on the individuals and match jobs that fits with their skills. It takes a minimum of one month to start this evaluation process.

DHHS Updates:

Tracy Bell:

- Shared a summary of activities in the Southern Region
- Passed out an update from the Division Director

MNCDHH Updates:

- Handouts and powerpoint were provided.
- DHHS plan to have their own website that is accessible and has ASL, the plan is to be done in FY18.
- Additional concerns included: information being shared in a timely manner, knowing what other committees/groups the Commission or commission members are working with, and the posting of MCDHH meeting agendas so that community members can see what the topics are and attend the meeting as interested.
- Major theme to come from the meeting: *MNCDHH needs to clarify what they do, how they do it and the difference they make.*
- MNCDHH emphasized that they have limited staff and that they have to prioritize the work and needs.
- Legislative update:
 - ✓ Accommodation Fund = funding continued at \$200,000 annual with state agencies paying ½ cost to cover this expense. Commission would like the cost to agencies eliminated.
 - ✓ State Academy Funding = given \$400,000 for the year to be used for a new and more secure school entrance.
 - ✓ Additional Funding for VR services = still waiting for results
 - ✓ Training Staff that work with senior adults. Allowing these training to count toward their required annual training hours.
 - ✓ Deaf Mentor Program = still waiting for results
 - ✓ Commission Budget = current level acceptable, but if there is no increase in funding they will not be able to do as much with technology (digital vlogs, photography, etc.)
- Best place to get information on the budget results and Commission activities is at their website: mn.gov/deaf-commission

OTHER

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- A joint meeting with SW AC Member will be on Friday, October 6.
- SE Advisory Committee: Friday, December 1st from 10am -12 noon at ABC Inc. 1911 14th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901