

March 1, 2004

Notes from S.W. Advisory Committee Meeting

Blue Earth County Library, 10:30-Noon

Present: Jeff Erickson, Pam Guerrero, Tracy Koster, Tracie Henning, Missy Manderfeld (from Area Agency on Aging), Ken and Deb Lindberg, and Marilyn Weber from South Central Technical College/Mankato. Guest: Jerry Pouliot from MN Relay. Our new Intern from St. Paul TC was also present: Courtney Fisher

**New members Missy and Marilyn were introduced. Both bring expertise and ideas that will be very valuable to enhancing services to our area. Missy is a Senior Outreach Specialist (for 10 years) who works with individuals and provides presentations. She announced that the Learning for Life conference will be May 7th, potentially a good thing for our staff to attend. She will provide us a flyer when it is available. Marilyn Weber has worked with Deaf students who attended South Central Tech. to assure they have good interpreters and appropriate accommodations. She works as Supplemental Services Coordinator. Pam introduced Courtney Fisher who will be under Pam's guidance at our program for the next few months. Jeff explained that Nancy Johnston resigned and we will be asking someone to replace her as our rep. To MCDHH.

** Jerry gave an overview of relay services. He has been traveling the state, attending local advisory committee meetings. He distributed brochures describing hearing carry over, speech-to-speech, and voice carry over. Some members were not aware that dialing 711 can take the place of dialing relay's 800 number. He mentioned the Dlink technology that can be used with a TV to allow net meeting or VRS usage. He deferred to Tracie Henning to talk about Captel. Ken and Deb that they encountered frustration when using relay to call a federal agency. Jerry suggested having DHHS consultant advocate for them.

**Jeff explained about the membership roster, that a number of new members have joined this committee. The roster was handed out for both S.W. and S.E. He also informed the group of the upcoming community forums; the S.W. meeting will take place May 1st at the Redwood Falls Library. He gave an overview of what we ask of members: ideas and recommendations to improve regional services and to bring to commission meetings.

**Tracie Henning shared how the Captel device works and the plans to distribute. She reported (23) initial interviews for the month of Feb., '04. She also has a number of presentations scheduled for the region and encouraged members to let her know of other sites needing presentations or individuals needing services.

**Pam Guerrero updated the group on the Flying Hands Social club which is planning a pizza and game night and is for those interested in signing. She reported on the CSD town meetings for interpreters and consumers in Rochester, Faribault, and New Ulm. Feedback has been mostly positive. Emergency on-call procedures are being developed. Annette(Nettie)Peters is the new southern outreach person from CSD. Pam also reported on Lingua-One, a foreign language referral program that is interested in doing referral for sign language requests as well. She mentioned work she is doing on the MRID '05 conference which will be held in Mankato. She mentioned our December, '04 skating cross cultural was a success with 50 attendees. She also said the Emergency Statewide Sign Language Interpreter Advocacy and Training Project is making a positive impact on the region and one hospital had a complaint filed against it.

**Tracy Koster reported on several projects in the works: deaf/blind pilot project, visual smoke detector, and mentor project. Also: Deaf/hh children's camp in Spicer, trainings at: SCTC, Sleepy Eye Hospital, Eagle Lake Public Schools, Area Agency on Aging, Head Start, Assistive Technology Day in Marshall, and participation in Deaf Club activities. Upcoming events we will participate in include: Day of Excellence in Marshall, Family Get Away Weekend in Mankato, End of the Year gatherings for deaf/hh school kids, Family Communication Week in August (16-20), and Community Forum May 1 in RWF. Tracy also mentioned that she will be on parental leave from May-August.

Our next meeting will be May 1 (the Forum), with subsequent meetings Sept 13th and December 13th.