

Summaries of Rochester and Mankato Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee meetings. Submitted by Jeff Erickson

June 15, 2007/Mankato:

Present: Kris Hemstock, Sharon Schwab, Ken Lindberg, Deb Lindberg, Laurie Palesotti.

Unable to Attend: PJ Rezmerski, Marilyn Weber.

Others Present: Curt Micka/Deaf Services and Jerry Pouliot/Relay Services

Staff Present: Jeff Erickson, Nancy Karkoska, Tracy Koster, and Pam Guerrero

Interpreter: Rebecca Baldwin Rand

1. All staff gave summaries of their work. Highlights: Nancy Karkoska from the SW TED program reported on her first 6 months of employment with us. She said she is surprised how many potential TED recipients are unaware that the service exist. She will be working on marketing strategies. Nancy has mostly met her targeted goal of (23) new consumers served per month.
2. Consultant Tracy Koster reported on Family Getaway activities sponsored by our program. She mentioned that the Division is revising its web page and feedback from members would be welcome. Tracy will participate in the annual Age and Disabilities Odyssey in Duluth.
3. Staff interpreter Pam Guerrero reported that the Southern region continues to have high demand for interpreters in the community and further capacity building will take place.
4. Curt Micka gave a summary of Deaf Services PTE project which will serve to assist employees and employers in terms of communication strategies and use of assistive technology (see handout for further information).
5. Jerry Pouliot stated that participation in our regional advisory committees is important for him to seek input on Relay Services and also about the TED Program. He talked about TTY relay, hearing carryover, captioned telephones and new technology coming soon that will utilize the Internet. He talked about the Qwest phone option that would provide for calls to 911 emergency with the cost being \$8/month. Some members stated that their area is covered by smaller independent phone companies.
6. Jeff stated that Jill Rohman will be representing the concerns and issues of the SW region at MCDHH.

Please note that handouts on these topics will be sent to those on our mailing list for both Rochester AND Mankato via regular mail. Topics include: The Mental Health Response Team, Pathways to Employment project, Staff reports and a Summary of Bills signed into law that benefit Deaf/HH/Deafblind consumers.

THE NEXT MANKATO ADVISORY MEETING WILL BE 9/28/07.

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June 22, 2007/Rochester

Present: Sue Gensmer, Doug Marquardt, Paula Detjen, Teri Schwalbach

Unable to Attend: Ann Peterson, Amy Deneen

Staff Present: Curt Micka (Assistant Division Director, St. Paul),

Danella Bohland, Tracie Henning, Jeff Erickson

1. Tracie Henning reported that TED activities are going well in the SE and that she helped train Nancy Karkoska who covers TED in the SW region. She completed a mass mailing to agencies that may refer consumers who could benefit from TED. Wireless equipment options are likely to be explored in the future.
2. Danella Bohland reported that she has provided training to employers who have Deaf employees and could benefit from the Pathways project. She also has been working with Deaf Mentors, Peer Visitors, and emergency Preparedness strategies (CEPIN). She will be assisting three immigrants who have a hearing loss achieve US citizenship.
3. Jerry Pouliot presented information similar to what he talked about in Mankato. Members appeared satisfied with TED and Relay Services.
4. Jeff reported that Amy Deneen will represent SE at MCDHH.

The next Rochester Advisory Committee meeting will be September 21, 2007.