

SW Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2008

Attendance: Deb Lindberg, Ken Lindberg, Sharon Schwab, Lori Palesotti, Jill Rohman, Tracy Koster, Jerry Pouliot, Jeff Erickson, Terry Tauger, Nancy Karkoska. **Interpreter:** Debbie Timmers

Welcome and Introductions

Updates:

1. MCDHH Report – Jill Rohman

- The focus for next year was to be the renovation of a building on the MSAD campus for a regional treatment center site for deaf children. Due to budget cuts this is on a back burner for now.
- Commission is working on getting captioned presidential candidate ads for the upcoming election.
- Some discussion about identification on the Driver's License that would identify a person as deaf/hard of heard/ deaf-blind. This is controversial and was met with quite a lot of discussion.
- Commission is still looking for parent representatives.
- Commission updates will be made available to committee members via Dawn in the Rochester office.

2. Mental Health Services – Terry Tauger

- DHHSD has hired Terry to cover the Southern part of Minnesota. They are planning to hire someone that will be housed in the St. Cloud office to service the northern part of the state. There is also a person in St. Paul.
- Services will involve direct client therapy and training for professionals / care givers / etc. Additionally he will be working cooperatively with the Consultants in each office to provide services and trainings.
- Terry has already met with several clients and is seeing some prevailing evidences of abuse. He will be also focusing on working with Senior Citizens that are experiencing mental health issues related to hearing loss or becoming late deafened.
- Terry also asked the group for ideas about how to promote the services. Ideas included; contacting the area ENT/audiologists and hearing aid dealers, Veterans associations, and doing workshops in the community.
- Committee also talked about the need for services in the rural area and with children

3. MRS – Jerry Pouliot

- Updated the committee on some scams/frauds that have been happen via relay. He also spoke to the protocol the Communication Operators will/can take should they believe the call to be fraudulent.
- He also spoke about the ability of people to use Captel services via Sprint through the internet.
- Pubic Access Video (PAV) may become available at the Twin Cities airport. It is currently available in Chicago and at a few other airports in the nation.

4. Area Updates – Jeff Erickson, Tracy Koster, Nancy Karkoska and Deb Timmers

- Working on real time captioning with area television stations. Austin has agreed to caption the news three times a day for one half hour.
- Working with the local Mankato library to get video phone for public use.
- TED program will soon be piloting a wireless/cell phone option as part of the services we provide. It will be piloted in St. Cloud and Metro offices sometime after July 1st.
- Deb is looking forward to working with area consumers and interpreters. She is planning to send a letters of introduction to the interpreters and she is also working with CSD to ensure freelance interpreter availability.

5. New Deaf Services Web Page

- Members were introduces to the new web page and are encouraged to look at if further on their own. There is a wealth of information along with an abundance of web links for consumers to access.

6. Future Business

- Jeff (or Dawn) will be in touch with minutes and dates of next meeting.