

SW Advisory Committee Meeting

September 5, 2008

Present: Jeff Erickson, Sharon Schwab, Bonnie Frisk, Kris Hemstock, Laurie Palesotti, Nancy Karkoska and Tracy Koster

Not Present: Jill Rohman, Ken & Deb Lindberg

Guest: Teika Pakalns, 2008 Get Out the Vote Coordinator for MCDHH

Interpreter: Courtney Kruse

Notetaker: Kris Hemstock

Introductions:

Get Out the Vote Project: Teika Pakalns from the MN-Gotv project.

- Encouraging Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind people to register, attend political events and to vote this coming election year (Nov. 4). An individual must be 18 years or older to vote.
- Goals: 1) Voter registration, remind voters to vote; 2) Candidate forums, support interpreter services, captioning, deafblind, etc.
- Would like feedback on hot topics, races, events, etc.
- Twin Cities Events: booth at ASL Expo on Sept. 20 at St. Paul River Center, a Twins game - a booth for Deaf/HH. October 24 at the St. Paul College – Deaf “Decision 2008” viewpoints (Democrat/Republican/other), clarify issues, booth.
- Developing PPT to teach people the importance of voting, learn more about issues, MCDHH has a video on their website, email. “Salons” – meet to discuss topics sometime in October.
- Mark Richie Secretary of State is running the election and is interested in Deaf and Hard of hearing issues.
- Sharon from New Ulm knows of 12 Deaf people who have no interest in voting. May be due to time, issues, don't know enough. Sharon can hand out voter registration cards to those she knows.
- Contest for younger students to get them involved – creative art/poetry contest about voting – due election day – for more info contact Teika.
- Oct. 14 is the deadline to mail in voter registration. On election Day individuals can register with proper ID. There is a website link for people to go to know where to vote or it is published in the newspaper.
- Norm Coleman/Al Franken do not caption commercials - pledge to have all ad commercials captioned. MN State Legislation – captioning or written text at the Federal Level cannot require captioning.
- Community events for Deaf/HH – where could we meet people? Sharon – New Ulm, Jill R. Region 6/8 – Tracy SW (Marshall area)
- What is the best way to get information out there to Deaf and HH?
Sharon suggested signing information, written material (not 100%), email (some), phone call or video phone.

Staff Updates:

Jeff Erickson, Regional Manager:

- Teika Palkalns maybe you could present at the Rochester Deaf club. The will be meeting in Oct. – usually about 30-40 people attend.
- Vacancies: staff interpreter and advisory committee position (Marilyn has resigned) Julie Snow??
- Emergency Preparedness DVD.
- Senior Citizens with hearing loss – technology, donations, resource guide booklet, funding ideas?

Tracy Koster, DHHSD Consultant:

- 2008-2009 Survival signs workshop: flyer is on the website if anyone is interested in attending. Dates: September 12, November 7, January 9, March 6, and May 8.
- ASL storytelling - 6 dates - 50 70 people. Need four more storytellers.
- Website update.
- Annual ice skating party, Mankato Jan. 19 or 23. Redwood Falls Feb 4. This year funding could be an issue due to budget cuts. Cost is around \$300 - \$400. Some alternatives to maybe cutting the cost is to have the kids bring their own skates or have the kids pay a small fee? Kris suggested maybe Sertoma would help of set costs?? Sponsor a fund raiser maybe a car wash or hot dog stand??

Nancy Karkoska, TED Specialist:

- Covering SW & SE (Tracie H. is on maternity leave) – covering 29 counties Tracie will be back in Nov. Been averaging about 46 interviews/month.
- Cell phone distribution project: Metro/St. Cloud will be piloting the project. Individuals will receive free one or two cell phones or pagers. The individual pays for the monthly service fee.
- Surveys of area: good response, positive feedback, PR-referrals, PH Nurse, Audiologist, phone co sent info, mailing to SW churches.

Jill Rohman, MCDHH Representative: reports to the commission.

Next Meeting December 12.