

May 12, 2010

To: Sharon Schwab and Sue Gensmer

From: Jeff Erickson

Re: Updates for you to bring to the May 21, 2010 Commission Meeting (MCDHH)

Service Highlights for Mankato and Rochester:

1. Coordinated a skill-building workshop for area interpreters. (18) interpreters participated.
2. Staff participated in the Mankato Career Expo. High school students from the Mankato area came to be exposed to a variety of careers, schools, and other resources.
3. Provided information to counties in the area regarding how to assist residents in flooding situations who are Deaf, hard of hearing or Deafblind and where they can get interpreter services if needed.
4. Coordinated our 10th annual Deaf Skating event at the Mankato Area. (120) children and adults participated, including students from MSAD.
5. Coordinated a presentation by Heather Ortiz to the Deaf community in New Ulm entitled "I need an interpreter".
6. Presented to (30) dental hygiene students at MN State University- Mankato regarding general information about hearing loss, including communication strategies.
7. We assist with coordinating Deaf Restaurant Club meetings in both the New Ulm and Marshall areas.
8. Participated in the Family Getaway Weekend: included information about Technology that is available to children with hearing loss.
9. Set up booth displays at information meetings about the new Return to Community program for seniors with hearing loss who wish to leave the nursing home and return to their own homes.
10. We continue to provide Deaf Mentor services to families in our area.
11. We continue to provide services to Deafblind consumers in our Self-Directed Program.
12. Staff continue to work collaboratively with mental health therapist Terry Tauger.
13. TED staff are making contacts with veterans service programs to inform them about our services and encourage application for our services. We have been distributed more Captel phones due to the promotional.
14. We have added new members to our advisory committees:
Mankato: Brenda Needham, Curt Slater (last fall), Roberta Johnson, Howard Rosten.
14. Rochester: Julie Oakland, Mary Ellen Bondhus, Jean Correll.
15. We continue to serve a large number of consumers on an ongoing basis.