

SW Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes May 7, 2010

Present: Sharon Schwab, Brenda Needham, Kristin Hemstock, Curt Slater, Tracy Bell, Nancy Karkoska, Jeff Erickson, and Jerry Pouliot

Not Present: Roberta Johnson, Laurie Palesotti, and Howard Rosten

Interpreter: Paula MacDonald

Meeting came to order 10:40am

Introduction of Members:

- Curt Slater – Deaf consumer who lives in North Mankato.
- Brenda Needham – Works with CSD (Communication Services for the Deaf) as the Southern Staff interpreter/community outreach coordinator. She has worked for CSD for three years.
- Jerry Pouliot is the Consumer Relations Manager for the Minnesota Relay.
- Sharon Schwab - Deaf consumer from New Ulm.
- Kris Hemstock - Southwest Parent Guide with Hands and Voices.

Staff Updates:

Nancy, TED Specialist:

- The wireless project was completed March 31.
- Distributed the Blackberry (data only), Katana (amplified cell phone and the Jitterbug (a large button amplified cell phone with basic features).
- A mass mailing was done in January to the churches in the southwest area.
- Did presentations at Senior Meal sites, Senior Center, Senior Residential Living, Silent Retreat , expos, and a training hosted by DHHS.
- Two new phones have been added for distributing – CSC600 is an amplified phone with speaker capabilities and caller ID. The other phone is an updated version of the CapTel with larger more user friendly screen.

Tracy, DHHS Consultant:

- Ice skating event in January over 120 people attended. This event has been taken place for 10 years. Everything is donated from various organizations.
- A presentation on Interpreter/vidyo in January by Heather Ortiz.
- Silent day in Windom – High school ASL students taking ASL via TV
- Aging Road show in Marshall and Mankato on March 29 and 30.
- ASL storytelling first Saturday of the month is completed and will start again in the fall.
- Presented to MSU classes, county workers, group home staff, and a family getaway weekend.

Paula MacDonald, Interpreter:

- Hosted a workshop in March on religious interpreting; was attended by 27 individuals. Susan Masters Lutheran pastor with Bread of life Deaf Church was the presenter.
- Mankato Career Expo for high school students approx. 350 in attendance regarding interpreting as a career.

Jeff, Regional Manager:

- Statewide meeting in St. Paul, May 18 & 19
- Sharon Schwab has been appointed as the representative from the southwest area to the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. Her first meeting will be May 21

Parent Guide Report: Kris Hemstock

- Ice skating event was a success. The Gaylord Sertoma club paid for half of the ice time.
- Family Getaway had 30 families who participated.
- Worked with the Pepsi Company on acquiring a \$5,000 grant "Pepsi Refresh". This money was used to put in 5 amplification systems in the Mankato school district (K-2 grade classrooms).
- In the process of planning a family picnic in July.

Other Business:

- Brenda would like to be able to attend the Deaf Restaurant club once in awhile.
- Sharon asked Brenda how an individual knows if an interpreter has been secured or will show up: i.e. medical appt. Brenda said you can call the day before to confirm/ask for the interpreter's name.
- CSD does have a preference list – so deaf individuals can say who they want and don't want.
- Brenda did a joint workshop with Paula for the southern area interpreters.
- Brenda is in the process of setting up a couple of workshops with Paula for the area interpreters on "Business Practices in Bad Economic Times" and one on "Mental Health".
- Jerry Pouliot contacted county agencies in the southern area via Relay and offered to send them brochures.
- Jerry P. would like to do a joint presentation with DHHSD staff to county agencies.
- Curt Slater mentioned that he had been having some problems with Charter in captioning certain programs. He had changed to Hickory Tech and has had no problems since.
- Jeff informed the committee that a chairperson will need to be selected at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05pm

Respectively submitted by

Dawn Crowson
DHHS Admin Assistant