

Advisory Committee Meeting

Southwest

12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1670 Mankato, MN 56001

Friday, January 27, 2017

Members: Roberta Johnson, Kristin Hemstock, Jacqui Shasky, Mike Goodlander, Curt Slater

Guest(s): Howard Rosten

Absent: Eric Nooker, Cassie Ramerth

Staff: Mike Provancha, Tracy Bell

Interpreter: Jenna Murphy

Note taker: Natalie Regenscheid

Community Updates:

Jacqui Shasky:

- Been attending plays for the past 8 years, this year will be attending to see Cinderella in October. Hope to continue because it is a great opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing kids from the area to get together.
- Attend the ice skating event on January 4, she has a student who is 6 years old and absolutely loved the event. She doesn't get much exposure at her school with other deaf and hard of hearing students and she enjoyed seeing many other students that are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Will soon be attending the Dr. Seuss play, EECHES soon.

Curt Slater:

- 2 years ago, there were no captioning at the Verizon Center. The Verizon Center finally set up captioning on the scoreboards about 2 weeks ago, hopefully they will continue to use it.
- CSD- education for remote locations away from St. Paul that wants assistance and services. Working on grant funding to continue services, provides adult education and advocacy programs. There is a hotline for consumers to use if there are abuse.

Roberta Johnson:

- Second training for DEED is next Tuesday, we are trying to catch up and move forward.
- We will not be receiving additional funding which is unfortunate because there are 1,000 people on the waiting list state wide.
- There are challenges with the number of people to receive job coaching and therapy to help them find jobs. Rehab providers are also working on job placement and retention.

Mike Goodlander:

- Still working on High School transitions.
- Working on technology education and awareness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers to use.
- Still learning from Roberta and learning ASL.

Howard Rosten:

- Still working on presentations.
- Lacy has been busy with a lot of deadlines. Working on Ramp materials and communications for loan programs.

Kristin Hemstock:

- Son is in his first year at Gustavus. Has Bluetooth capable hearing aids, so far really enjoying it and doing well in school.

DHHS Updates:

Mike Provancha:

- MN Hands and Vices are continuing their role in helping parents with education about children with hearing loss.
- Ice skating event went well, 35 students came from area schools. A lot of great sponsorships and we deeply appreciate their help in creating another wonderful ice skating event.

Tracy Bell:

- Mike Provancha started as our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist on January 13. He has taken over my case load of Deafblind consumers under the Deaf Blind Consumer Directed Services. Mike is also coordination the Hearing Aid Bank.
- Our 17th Annual Ice Skating even held on January 4th was a success with 35 deaf and hard of hearing students from area schools. We appreciate the generosity from our sponsors-MNHV, ASA, McDonald's, MSU/Stomper, Mayo Clinic Physical Therapy. Feedback that was received was positive and recommended that we host the event at a later date in the month because most students are returning to school from winter break early in the month.
- Updates from the Central Office:
 - TED program iPhone/iPad pilot will accept last day of applications on February 1. Results since last summer: 141 people in Minnesota received a device. Ages 40-59, received 49. Ages 60-79, received 49 devices. Ages 80+, received 12. Ages 25-39, received 12. Ages 10-24, received 15. Still unknown if the program will continue, still collecting surveys and it will be determined on a later date if the TED program will begin distributing such devices.
 - Deaf Blind Consumer Directed Services, there are a few open slots in some region, if you know anyone in other regions that could use services, please contact us.
 - TTAP (technology and Training Access Program) is up and running. This program is ideal for those who are deafblind and are not a fit for DBCDS. This program will allow access

for technology, equipment and training in order to become self-sufficient. The more funds used for this program, the better for planning. Legislative will determine if TTAP will be funded beyond this fiscal year.

- MH program is seeking certified interpreters in MN who are interested in interpreting in mental health settings to attend the Mental Health Interpreting Institute in Montgomery, Alabama this summer. Financial assistance is available and applications are due March 6. See flyer.
- Webconnect event with ASLIS will be on Saturday, February 4. They are hosting a panel discussion about interpreters and deaf consumers' rights via a state wide webconnect event. Mankato will be one of the webhub locations. See handout.
- Regions Hospital will be hosting their annual Spring Workshop on June 2. The topic is Informed Trauma and Resiliency. Candice Tate from Georgia will be the presenter. See handout.
- All Day Training in St. Cloud will be on May 4, flyers will be handed out. Topic is "Dispelling the Myths", discussing hearing loss, technology and communication. Contact Diane if interested in attending.
- Director's Updates:
 - November 30, 2016 Strategic Planning Process meeting was held with DHHSD Regional Advisory Committee members, community partners and MNCDHH staff. Reviewed situational analysis, identified obstacles, and defined high level strategies for the purpose of helping DHHSD define its vision.
 - On December 1 & 2, 2016, DHHSD staff worked together and developed a mission, vision, as well as specific strategies and implementation plans. This became the basis for a strategic plan DHHSD will act on for the next 3-4 years. There are 7 focus areas:
 - Modernize DHHSD and TED statutes by updating legislative language.
 - Staffing and Organization through modernizing our statewide service delivery system.
 - External Partnerships and Collaborations through strengthening and expanding external relationships.
 - Internal Partnerships and Organizational Communication via enhancing relationships within DHS.
 - Outreach and Visibility by promoting our services to consumer and service providers.
 - Training designed to improve Minnesota's capacity to meet the needs of people with hearing loss.
 - Interpreting Services through enhancing interpreting service availability statewide.
 - Legislative report based on the two studies of DHHSD and TED is completed and is in the hands of the DHS Commissioner for approval before being submitted to the Legislative Research Office. Once it is released to the legislators, this document will become public information.
 - Thank you for your participation on the Advisory Committee and as always look forward to your input and feedback as we move forward with our strategic planning process!

MNCDHH Updates:

- Lobby Day will be 3/8/17, there will be videos on the website. Great for everyone to attend to learn more about the laws, one concern is do parents fully understand the Choice Law? This is an excellent opportunity for parents to learn more and ask questions.
- Working on additional funding to maintain buildings.
- Legislative Agenda will discuss education, age related hearing loss, and assisted living facilities.
- There will not be a spring conference, it will be pushed back to November.
- 150 people with disabilities are now certified, guaranteed that if a person has the skills and abilities, they can get jobs.
- VRS will not survive if commissioner does not give us additional funding.
- Access to website is still not accessible to people with disabilities, we are still working on providing accessibility with the State Access Bill.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, June 1, 2017. 10am-12 noon at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services-South 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1670, Mankato, MN 56001