

Advisory Committee Meeting

Joint AC Meeting

Owatonna Public Library, 105 N Elm Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

Friday, October 6th, 10am – 12:30pm

Members: Cassie Ramerth, Jacqui Shasky, Kristin Hemstock, Lisa Dembouski, Chandra Petersen, Missy Brenhaug, Annette Peters, Ridge Euler

Guest(s): Mary Hartnett, Jaimelyn King, Sabrina Hinrichs

Absent: Mike Goodlander, Curt Slater, Howard Rosten, Wes Brandenburger, Lloyd Ballinger, Kim Hicks

Staff: Tracy Bell, PG Kelly, Nancy Karkoska

Interpreter: Jenna Murphy, Jennifer David, and Sara Swanson

Note taker: Natalie Regenscheid

DHHS Updates:

Tracy Bell:

- DHHS placed interviews for a new director, so far haven't found the right match yet. For now, Amy McQuaid-Swanson will be working out of class as the director and Bruce Hodck will be return on a temporary basis. Bruce will be working part-time, he will assist with office operations, supervising regional managers, and work on modernization within our division.
- Workplan Summary hand out has been distributed.
- The Northwest Mental Health Specialist position has been extended another year to work with us. The Deaf-Blind Specialist position has been extended another year. We hope that legislation will make both positions permanent.
- Legislation provided us funding for our Demo Lab, we have a lot of great technology for everyone to check out.
- TED Program, on October 1st the income requirements have increased for eligibility.
- Connections hand out has been distributed. Listening event about prevention, treatment and recovery from addictions and mental illnesses, the deaf and hard of hearing communities, and housing. There are several dates in which you can attend,

Winona and Marshall will be hosting this event in October, please see the flyer for more information.

- All Day Training hand out has been distributed. Mankato office will be hosting an all-day training for service providers who wish to learn more about how they can better provide services and understanding for consumers with a hearing loss. Hosted on November 8th, 9am – 4pm at the Mankato DHHS office.
- Ice Skating Event: We are currently planning the DHHS ice skating event, this will be happening in February rather than January to better accommodate to the students' schedules.
- St. Cloud still does not have a Regional Manager, right now Anne Janckila is working out of class as the Regional Manager.
- Northwest-Moorhead will be retiring their Regional Manager, Marcy Schutt. She will retire October 17th. Jeanne Kolo-Johnson will be working out of class as the Regional Manager. Right now they will be looking for a temporary D/HH Specialist.
- No new updates from TED and Mental Health, except that TED income guidelines have changed as of October 1. Nancy and PG are here if you have questions.

MNCDHH Updates:

Mary Hartnett:

- PowerPoint hand out and MNCDHH brochure have been distributed.
- Brief background about Mary: started out as a French major and then transitioned to become an interpreter because she fell in love with the Deaf Culture. In 1980, DHHS received funding, 5 years later the MNCDHH then received money for funding. Mary eventually worked her way into Commission.
- The purpose of MNCDHH is to engage the community to deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing voices to be heard. To identify barriers to communication access and equal opportunities. To develop public policy solutions and to empower the community to become engaged citizens and advocates for the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing.
- There are 7 at large members who seek to find the common ground within racial, indigenous, ethnic, gender and cultural diversity of the state to provide education, employment, communications, and age-related hearing loss.
- Have a 5-year strategic plan with 15 focus groups, provide 1:1 interviews, surveys and collaboration with the staff and board. The staff will work on the work plans and provide recommendations as to how to achieve the goals, the board will vote on contracts and legislative agenda needed to support the plan. Purpose of strategic plan is to:
 - Improve Educational Outcomes
 - Increase employment

- The goal is to increase employment to 7% by August 2018, we are currently at 6%
 - In 2015, a policy has been placed for employers to employ deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing members. We have \$1 million dollars to be used to support the costs for accommodations for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing employees.
 - Provide recognition of age-related hearing loss
 - Plan is to create a website for the DHHSD
 - Improve communication access and develop stronger regional advisory committees
 - Increase civic engagement
 - Increase organizational capacity to support and report our work
- Staff Members:
 - Jessalyn Akerman-Frank: Director of Civic Engagement and Project Management
 - Emory David Dively: Deputy Director, takes care of operations and attend 70 meetings per year
 - Mary Hartnett: Executive Director, makes sure everything comes together
 - Dalena Nguyen: Intern
 - Anna Paulson: Coordinator of Educational Advancement and Collaboration
 - Anne Sittner-Anderson: Communications Coordinator
 - Office Coordinator: Position is vacant, currently interviewing candidates to fill this position.
- Community can sign up for weekly email newsletters or join Facebook to receive daily updates within MNCDHH.

Community Updates:

Chandra Petersen:

- Fiscal Year 17 finished on September 30. VR employed 2,716 people with disabilities for this fiscal year.
- 15% of funds and resources are provided for young adults in the transition phase from school to obtaining a job. In Rochester, the goal was to provide jobs for 135 consumers, we achieved 156. 22% of people are college students and needed a lot of guidance with finding a job upon completion of college. Did a lot of collaboration with SEMCIL and DHHSD.
- Connect 700 program: this program is for consumers with disabilities to gain employment within the state. The goal is to get the foot in the door and work 700 hours under probation to maintain the job.

Cassie Ramerth:

- No new updates, have a few events coming up. Tomorrow, Saturday, October 7th will be having a Pumpkin Patch event in Litchfield.
- Been receiving a lot of referrals for babies.

Annette Peters:

- Still networking with agencies throughout the state.
- Will be hosting an interpreter workshop next month to close the gap between graduating college and preparing for the real world as an adult.
- Currently have 7 interpreters on staff at MSAD.
- Working with Mary Cashman Bakken to bring back summer workshops for interpreters.
- Due to the weather, the new dormitory has been delayed, the plan is for it to be complete by February.

Lisa Dembouski:

- No new updates.

Missy Brenhaug:

- No new updates, currently have a deaf gentleman on case load and assisting him on how to adjust to retirement.

Kris Hemstock:

- No new updates.

Jaimelyn King:

- No updates.

Jacqui Shasky:

- Family Getaway: working on asking parents if they are willing to volunteer to plan and execute the Family Getaway this year. There are only 5 teachers for the deaf and hard of hearing on staff, we need 7 and since we are short staffed and overwhelmed with caseloads, we are unable to cover the Family Getaway.

Sabrina Hinrichs:

- Rochester Movie Theater now has captioning, there are 10 captioning devices available.

Ridge Euler:

- November 11th will be the MDBA banquet, this will be the 46th year. Highly recommend that everyone attend, it is a great experience.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- SE Meeting Date: December 1st, 10am-12pm noon at ABC Inc in Rochester.
- SW Meeting Date: December 8th, 10am-12pm noon at DHHSD in Mankato.