

Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equality
Behavioral Health Committee Meeting
November 20, 2011
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
1:00 pm

Present: Lois Steele, Vice-Chair; Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Karen Miller, Deaf Ministries; Josh Weinstein, D.A.D; Kyle Hodges, Staff.

Interpreter: Pam D'Occhio

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting as submitted.

Additions to the Agenda

- Membership
- 911

Chair Report

There was no Chair Report.

Business

Certified Peer Support Training/Institute for Recovery and Community Integration

Kyle provided an update regarding his contact with Robert Turri from the Institute for Recovery and Community Integration about providing training on Certified Peer Support Training. Christy had emailed Penny Chelucci (DSAMH) and Della Thomas (DSD) as key stakeholders, but had not heard back from Penny. Della could not currently offer someone due to staffing issues. Kyle asked for suggestions on how to start the conversation. Kyle also spoke about new membership (including a representative from DSAMH - Dara Schumaier). Lois suggested that Kevin Huckshorn be contacted regarding participation.

Kyle asked what other agencies should participate, including providers. Connections was suggested. Kyle recommended that Robert Turri attend a meeting soon to discuss specifics and then plans could be made for the training. Lois discussed participation, cost and suggested that participants get credits (CEUs) for attending the training or this training be added to an upcoming conference (for example, the LIFE Conference). Kyle suggested that Robert could provide guidance on this. Loretta added that she and Christy are part of the Delaware Consumer Recovery Coalition (DCRC) held at DSAMH and most of the consumers involved have been discharged from DPC and provide peer support (having attended a mental health conference, including a session on this subject). Loretta and Christy had asked about options for people who are deaf and this topic was mentioned. Loretta thought this program would be beneficial here in

Delaware. Loretta will contact Penny (who provides support to this group) about how best to provide a training here in Delaware and this Committee could help with coordination. Loretta stated she would follow up with Penny at this coming Friday's DCRC meeting. Lois suggested getting a group of deaf people trained because deaf-to-deaf peers would be the best scenario, although it would be good to partner with the DCRC. Loretta suggested that Robert meet with us and that a private provider called Community Integration, Inc. may be interested in increasing certification for their deaf employees who provide independent living skills training.

Warm Line Update/Meeting with Contact Lifeline

Karen stated that she and Christy had attended a meeting recently with Deanna Morgan (Contact Lifeline). Karen explained the purpose of Warmline (for deaf and hard of hearing people who call 911 and are transferred to the Warmline) and said she thought it would be a good idea for Delaware to partner with the program in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. Karen commented that Deanna was concerned about cost and explained that it is no longer a phone line, but accessed online through chat. Kyle questioned their not being a phone number to call. Loretta explained that there is a hotline for people in crisis who can speak with someone, but some have to go through a relay service.

Karen added that during the meeting, Carol Stevens (who served as interpreter) explained that there is no strong mental health support system for deaf and hard of hearing people in Delaware. Karen stated that Deanna would contact someone in Pennsylvania and other states and was going to speak with Contact Lifeline's Board. Karen asked that Kyle be involved and speak to the Board directly and possibly get this on their agenda for their next meeting. Kyle requested more clarification, but will make contact with Deanna and ask that this Committee to be involved. Kyle suggested that someone from one of the other states that have this program also be in attendance to explain how the program works. Kyle commented that if we attend the Board meeting, it was important to explain the process in a simple, easy manner so they understand the process. Loretta commented that she had invited Deanna to come to her office so she could explain the technology, but has not heard back. Josh suggested having a computer available to access the PC video phone, which would be easy to set up. Loretta suggested having one person as our spokesperson who could attend the Board meeting and demonstrate the video phone. Kyle suggested that he would encourage Deanna to go to Loretta's office prior to the Board meeting. Lois suggested going through YouTube and run the demonstration before and after the Board meeting or have the link information on paper as a handout. Josh spoke about the option of using a Smart Phone and downloading the application.

Loretta explained that the Warmline (for mental health support with peers) and 911 (for emergencies) are two different issues. Kyle addressed the question of having volunteers available if they agree with this. Karen commented that she and Christy would volunteer. Josh questioned the process of Warmline and stated that someone needs to be available 24/7 and may need some other volunteers. Lois suggested that we ask for the Board's commitment and guidelines as a first step. Josh suggested collecting data on Warmline. Loretta will contact the person regarding Rick van Story to get feedback on their program. This could be presented to the Board as a pilot program. Josh suggested using caution regarding time constraints of the Board meeting and sticking to their agenda and times. Kyle stated that it is important to be prepared. Kyle will contact Deanna and ask about the best path forward. Discussion will continue on this.

Mental Health Fair in 2012 – Do We Want to Have One?

Kyle spoke about the overall positive results from the evaluations regarding the Fair and asked the Committee for feedback on a path forward, either have one in 2012 or wait until 2013. Josh suggested waiting until 2013 (repeating every two years), but start the planning now, including choosing a date (maybe tap into DSD's professional development day). Kyle asked about the content, whether to keep it specific to behavioral health issues or expand. Kyle suggested that if we expand the topics beyond behavioral health, CODHHE could handle this and include Della Thomas in the planning. Josh suggested including CODHHE and mental health providers, adding that a conference demands much more preparation than what was done this year. Clarification was given to expand the participation of providers, but keep behavioral health issues as the primary topic. Loretta suggested including topics such as substance health and child mental health. Kyle suggested discussing further at the January BHC meeting and invite Della or a representative. Suggestion was made to have one or two workshops and include the Peer Specialist training and invite the deaf community. Agreement was made to hold the Fair in 2013 and discuss further at the January meeting.

Interpreter Registry

Kyle stated that this had been discussed last spring. Pennsylvania has a resource for interpreter services and the Committee wanted to follow-up. Kyle wanted to discuss what direction this Committee should take. DVR previously provided a list of interpreter agencies, but due to liability issues, could no longer do so. Kyle explained that, although it had been a good resource, DVR now refers people to the RID website which contains a list of interpreters in Delaware. Kyle asked how Pennsylvania's Registry operates. Josh explained that Act 57 says they have a list of certified interpreters, including contact information. Lois explained that the list is maintained by Sharon Behan (DHH Office similar to Loretta's). There is a requirement in Pennsylvania that an interpreter must be certified and be registered. There are legal implications, although there are a few exceptions and exemptions. There are penalties for interpreters working in Pennsylvania not being certified and on the Registry.

Lois commented that there can be a certified registry or provide a listing of everyone who wants to be included. Lois explained the different levels of interpreters. Lois added that RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) and EIPA (Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment) are the organizations that certify interpreters. Josh suggested that if Delaware has this type of Act, more colleges and universities would offer interpreting training programs. Lois added that this was tried, but unsuccessful due to lack of interest. Lois explained that it is not the training that is the problem, but that interpreters have to work uncertified for several years (2-5) to gain the experience needed to pass the test. Four year colleges will not say a student is qualified to pass the test and interpreters do not have the opportunity for a paid internship. Josh commented that his company provides internships to CCCP graduates, in working with children with behavioral needs, but lose them within 2 years after they are certified. They then have to start the process over. Josh commented that it would be beneficial to have a Registry in Delaware that is similar to the one in Pennsylvania.

Lois asked if the concern is the certification or that interpreters do not maintain or improve their skills. Josh said his concern was interpreters who are not certified and who have a level of

ethical responsibility. some attend workshops and some never do. He has a particular concern for those who interpret at doctor's appointments and are not qualified. Lois suggested a resolution that the State require interpreters to require a certain amount of hours of training per year. They would then provide proof and have to register with an appropriate agency. This would require a lot of defining; for example, if someone is interested in working in a hospital, they can show what specific training they have. Lois also said there are situations where the deaf person does not want a particular person as interpreter. Josh said that the schools should teach the students how to become better self-advocates in the community.

Josh added that he is interested in the model that Pennsylvania uses, where the doctors and hospitals know they have to follow a certain protocol, use a certain agency that hires certain interpreters. Josh stated that he does not see this in Delaware. Josh suggested that maybe we could piggyback on the D/HH Bill of Rights for Children or have separate legislation. Kyle suggested approaching Della about a workshop or class for self-advocacy for students. He also suggested Partners in Policymaking, including Juniors in Partners in Policymaking through the DDC (Developmental Disabilities Council) which teaches good advocacy skills. Kyle stated that DOE revised regulations for interpreters in the public school system.

Kyle explained that RID gives levels of certification, but there is no standard policy on interpreters. Josh prefers a standard that everyone practices. Josh added that Pennsylvania does not have special requirements for hospitals or doctors. The Registry is used to check certification. Loretta said the names are also listed on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing website, including contact information. The State of Pennsylvania has the responsibility for keeping the Registry updated. Josh will contact Sharon Behan, Director of Office of Deaf & Hard of Hearing in Pennsylvania for follow-up. This discussion will be continued in January.

Membership

Kyle stated that DSAMH and DSD have appointed representatives to the Committee: DSAMH - Dara Schumaier; DSD – Katy Reinhold and Ann Lofting.

911

This was tabled until the January meeting.

Reports/Announcements

Loretta stated this committee should be focusing on adults and children and we should invite people from certain agencies. She stated that services are lacking for children. Kyle mentioned that the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (formally Child Mental Health) had previously attended meetings. Kyle will contact Susan Czyck to determine a possible representative.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 3:05 pm.

The next meeting will be January 17, 2012 at 1:00 pm at IRI in Wilmington. Kyle thanked Lois for chairing the meeting. Kyle will also add Carol Stevens to this Committee's distribution list.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist
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