

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
February 20, 2008
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
10:30 am

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair), Hank Passi; Loretta Sarro; Lois Steele and Kyle Hodges, Staff

Interpreter: Pamela D’Occhio

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

- Adding a representative from Delaware School for the Deaf.
- Kyle added that he met with Andrea Guest, the Director of DVR (Loretta’s office), and they are receptive to purchasing about 1,000 visor cards—to be rolled out in May.

Approval of the January 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes

On Page 2, under Interpreter Contract in Mental Health Settings, please delete the sentence “It was suggested that maybe Loretta’s office could develop a workshop for mental training and contact surrounding states for examples of mental health trainings for interpreters”. The last sentence should read “Hank suggested that DSAMH go to Galludet’s website to get more information on interpreter studies in mental health issues”. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the January 17, 2008 meeting minutes as amended.

Chair Report/with Assessment on DPC Policy and Procedure on March 12

Christy noted the lack of attendance at today’s meeting after it was agreed to change the date until today. The next meeting will be April 16 as we agreed not to meet every month. Kyle will send out an e-mail to all the members to make sure which day works best. It was agreed to keep the next BHDC meeting on Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 am.

Christy reported that Loretta and she went to a Consumer Focus meeting. Some of the people there had developed an assessment for Admission and Discharge at DPC. Christy volunteered to become a member of that committee. Loretta reported that Penny Chelucci, the Consumers Relations Administrator at the DSAMH, helped set up an advocacy group called the “Consumer Recovery Coalition” about one year ago. Penny has invited two experienced representatives from Philadelphia to help organize this group until the group can start running independently. All the consumers have mental health and some are dually diagnosed with other disabilities. At the last meeting, the Discharge Planning process was discussed and consumers were asked to express what their experiences were with the processes at DPC. The consumers expressed their frustration of the process of how to manage their medication after discharge—it is very easy to relapse and return to DPC. It was discussed that there is a need for improvement on a discharge/transition plan. The University of Pennsylvania representatives will be running this meeting. Six consumers will be coming and providing their experiences of discharge and work on the assessment tool. Christy will be attending this meeting. It is necessary to make sure that the assessment addresses deafness (e.g. interpreter referral agency in the discharge plan. At this time, the coalition is establishing their members. Hank stated that the result of the discharge and

assessment process could be used as a mode. Christy stated that her report will involve details from the consumer focus meeting and the assessment.

Christy stated that Helen (representing DSAMH) gave her three different agencies that could provide assistance for her deaf clients in Dover. Two agencies would not provide an interpreter and one agency said for the client to bring their own interpreter because they are a small agency. The client was referred to People's Place. Christy will e-mail Steve, Helen (and copy Kyle) letting them know that interpreter services are not being provided.

Connection's Rules for Medicaid Clients

Christy reported that she had a client that was apprehensive to go to Connections. After driving and accompanying this client to a 7:30 am intake, the client with an interpreter provided, had the intake process started around 9 am. After the client was asked some intake questions, the client was sent back out to the waiting room and the interpreter had to leave as they were assigned to another client within Connections. Christy and her client had to wait for the interpreter to return and then Connection's said that they had to reschedule this client. Christy said that the interpreter was not appropriate for this appointment, so Christy had to work as a team interpreter. Christy felt that the funding for the interpreter could have been better used. Also, for Medicaid clients you have to be there at 7:30 am and they take you whenever they can. The client was supposed to see a psychologist and an intake person and the client has said that they are not coming back. Christy will e-mail Kirsten her experience and copy this committee. Hank said that this happens to his DVR clients as well.

Alabama Mental Health Interpreter Training

Christy received a brochure on an interpreting program on March 7 in Alabama offering some interpreter training for mental health and substance abuse professionals, which includes interpreters.

DSAMH Meeting

Loretta reported on a meeting with Steven Dettwyler, Penny, HarrietAnn and Kyle. The first topic was the interpreter coordinator position. Betsy Tucker was the interpreter, but she had to switch positions and talk about her contracted position in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Steven asked if there was a screening tool for interpreters. Betsy replied that she was willing to screen some of the interpreters to see if they were appropriate. Loretta used the example that HarrietAnn does know sign language and can get by in a conversation; however, she is not qualified to interpret. Betsy explained the process of certification, training and "qualified" interpreters to Steven. Educational tools and documentation were provided to Steven. Verizon, Sprint, and the Sorenson system were explained to Steven. Loretta also shared information from Deaf Times and the FCC regulations. After this meeting, Loretta demonstrated to Steven at her office the use of the videophone. The point was made that if you do not have anyone on your staff that signs, you do not need the video phone capability. Loretta added that she forgot to mention to Steven that if you have a patient that is committed by the court to an in-patient facility, they may need a video phone to communicate with their family members or whomever they need to call. Loretta will send an e-mail to Steven with this information. Kyle added that in the last couple of meetings, Steven has shown a lot of interest in trying to improve their current system. Penny is an asset as she knows mental health issues from a consumer's perspective. Hank added that the committee was pleased with the meeting and there was a positive path forward. Kyle added that hopefully, for FY 2010, this interpreter coordinator position will be

included in DSAMHs budget process. It will be good to follow up with Steven in the summer to make sure that this recommendation is included in his budget request; it is up to the BHCD to keep advocating for this position.

Reports/Announcements

Kyle noted that Cliff suggested that the BHDC try to get a representative from the Delaware School for the Deaf on this Committee. Loretta suggested contacting Mindi Rittenhouse who is the school leader (principal) that could appoint someone to be on the Committee. The Delaware School for the Deaf (DSD) has two school psychologists and one counselor. For issues outside of DSD, contact Lori Moers. Hank suggested contacting Rich Pelletier, who used to be a part of this Committee, asking him if he would still like to be a part of this Committee. If not, maybe he can recommend someone else from DSD. It was agreed to the latter approach since Rich appears to have once been a member.

Hank announced that Loretta and he are co-chairs of next year's Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference sponsored by DVR. The tentative date is March 20 and 21, 2009, hopefully to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover. Hank and Loretta are still in the process of selecting the committees and the keynote speaker. There will be six to eight consumer workshops concentrating on deaf and hard of hearing issues. The hope is that one day will be dedicated to professional service providers (e.g. interpreter workshops, OCI, DSAMH, etc) and one day will be for deaf consumers. This Committee should be represented. More information (flyers/announcements) will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Lois' provided some articles as information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
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