

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
September 20, 2007
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
9:30 am

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair), Diana Armstead; Helen McDonnell; Kirsten Olson; Hank Passi; Cliff Rodman; Loretta Sarro; Lois Steele and Kyle Hodges, Staff

Interpreter: Shirley George

Chair Report

- Consumer Leader Focus Meeting 6/14/07

Loretta and Christy went to this meeting which consisted of consumers and about six people from the deaf community. A good discussion was held on deaf issues. Loretta provided copies of the mission statement of the Consumer Advocacy group of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). Renata Henry, the Division Director, explained her responsibilities, other employees' roles and the budget. They meet every six weeks at the Smyrna Rest Area. It was suggested that the deaf and hard of hearing community share some of their experiences.

- Interpreter Regulatory Update from CODHHE meeting

Loretta gave the following update. Renata wanted this Committee to set up some legislation for interpreter referrals. CODHHE felt that since there are a small number of interpreters in Delaware, it would be hard to set up something for certified and uncertified interpreters. Rich Pelletier contacted the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) to discuss a model interpreter bill. A list of certified interpreters is preferred by the NAD. CODHHE suggested that Loretta check with her division about a certified interpreter list. Loretta stated that there are no state regulations for interpreters. Since the organization of DELRID has closed down, there is no official list.

Kyle added that Rich was going to contact Alabama for their model interpreter bill. It had been suggested that Loretta's office contact her division's representative in the Attorney General's office for any legal concerns and methodology for the interpreter list. Loretta has a list of interpreters that she distributes and she could forward this to this Committee. Loretta is waiting for her supervisor to get back from vacation to discuss this issue.

Lois said that "officially" there is no list of interpreter's in Delaware. You can go to the RID website and put in Delaware and a list of names will come up. Lois' name will not be on the list in Delaware because she lives in Pennsylvania. There could be two lists—a certified list and a preference list. Loretta stated her office does not have a preference list

and Loretta has no authority to screen the interpreters. Loretta also said that if the consumer is okay with someone not being certified, that is okay.

It was stated that certified/skilled interpreters are needed for court, mental health and hospital situations. The court has their own policies and requires yearly interpreter trainings. Lois stated that in the state of Delaware if you work in the courts, you must go to the court training—they do not require other certification. Renata would like to have one agency to contact for interpreters to make it easier and more consumer-friendly.

In summary, Kyle will send out the interpreter listing from Loretta to this Committee.

- Summer Institute Training - a brochure was provided to the Committee

1. Page 12 #1072 “Recovery, Trauma, and Empowerment”
2. Page 16 #1083 “Self-Advocacy and Negotiations”
3. Page 17 #1052 “Hiring, Supervising; and if Necessary Firing Service Providers in Recovery”
4. Page 17 #1068 “Empowerment and Consumer Culture”

It was stated that there are four areas of training on the agenda. It was asked if there is any money available to attend this training. The financing is available for consumers only. The cost is \$500 for five days. Christy will look into it and e-mail Lois regarding other available financing. It was stated that every year there is a different need; this year they are focusing on the Recovery model and persons being proactive in treatment. Loretta stated that there is no workshop on Deafness and Hard of Hearing at this Training. However, in August, Loretta is having a discussion about training for a workshop next year with her supervisor and co-workers on how to work with interpreters, how to identify certified interpreters, and to encourage DSAMH to set up credits (CEUs) for interpreters who are interested in working in the mental health field in Delaware.

It was stated that New Castle County Community Continuum Care Program is a service provider that provides intensive case management and home health care for people with serious mental illness. People, who have long histories of mental health issues, including hospitalizations and institutionalization, receive services that are provided in the community. A few deaf people are served; however, they would have to meet DSAMH criteria for that level of care. It was stated that there may be three persons who are deaf in the program. In out-patient settings they may see 5-8 persons who are deaf. Interpreters are used for clients who are deaf.

- Mission/Objectives Statements to be discussed/revised

Helen passed out a draft copy of the proposed Mission statement to the Committee. After much discussion, it was suggested to focus on one objective at a time. Kyle proposed re-wording the draft Mission statement as follows:

“The mission of the Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equality Behavioral Health on Deafness Committee is to promote legislation, regulations, programs and policies to ensure that individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in Delaware receive quality mental health, substance abuse and addiction services which meet their individual needs”.

Kyle can e-mail this proposed draft mission statement to the Committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator

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