

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
October 18, 2007
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
9:30 am

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair), Helen McDonnell; Cliff Rodman; Barbara Schroeder; Loretta Sarro; and Kyle Hodges, Staff

Interpreter: Pamela D'Occhio

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

- None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September 20, 2007 meeting minutes as submitted.

Chair Report

- Christy attended the DAD Community Partnership Day event which was quite successful. Everyone had a great time and they are looking forward to the next event.
- Christy has a concern with the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD)/Adult Protective Services. The issue is that IRI is expected to provide interpreting services. The state agency should be providing and paying for the interpreting services. Kyle asked for a specific example. Christy gave her client her business card and somehow this was given to the DSAAPD. DSAAPD called Christy for a meeting with a deaf client and then asked Christy to provide the interpreter. DSAAPD invited Christy to this meeting; however, since DSAAPD was initiating the meeting and was going to be discussing the services that they were going to be providing, they needed to provide the interpreting services. Kyle will e-mail the Division Director and say that we are hearing of some incidents with Adult Protective Services, that they do not seem to understand their role of paying for interpreter services with deaf clients. Kyle will provide the example above and ask for clarification.

Mission/Objective Statement

Christy gave out a draft copy of the mission statement.

Responsibilities—

- “The subcommittee will meet monthly to review areas of concern.”

Cliff asked who brings the areas of concern and what does it mean. Cliff questioned this sentence. Christy replied if there is a certain client that has had obstacles with accessing services, we need to provide education, training, and advocacy for the client. Cliff agreed and it was stated that this needs to be more specific. Maybe that means to provide input for better services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. It may need to be mentioned that it is also a provider issue.

Kyle said that at the last meeting everyone agreed that the Mission Statement and Responsibilities need to be separate. Discussion ensued about “Old Business” and “New Business”, and client problems. Christy suggested deleting “to review areas of concern since we meet monthly and there will be a specific agenda provided for “concerns”. Kyle clarified that the statement will read— “The subcommittee will meet monthly. An agenda will be provided at each meeting.”

- “The subcommittee meeting is open to all who wish to attend”.

Kyle noted that the SCPD has Executive, Housing, Policy and Law, and Brain Injury sub-committees. The Policy and Law Committee can act on its own. When they review regulations, policies and laws, letters are sent out to agencies, legislators or the appropriate person. Kyle noted that when you get into these issues, it is more about by-laws and what the protocol is on that issue. Loretta said that she feels that this is a sub-committee under CODHEE and the concerns should be presented to them for their approval/consideration. Kyle feels that this would be in CODHHEs by-laws. It was asked if all committee members have to be state employees. Kyle replied that all the Council members are not state employees and other outside agencies are members. Kyle stated that the language should also be added that only committee members shall be allowed to vote on any business.

- “The subcommittee will develop a list of available services; the list will be updated annually by the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Department of Labor.” The list will include names, address and phone numbers of organization (private and public) who provides the services.

Christy said that Loretta has been doing a great job of keeping up with resources and referring people. Loretta stated that if someone comes to her for help, she refers them to someone who can assess their needs and help them. The intent is to be able to review various agencies lists and make recommendations—through Helen’s and Loretta’s office—in the mental health context. Kyle stated that this Committee can make recommendations for services. Therefore, this bullet should read-- “The subcommittee will regularly review Delaware’s list of available services and make recommendations as how to improve services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.” It was noted that any changes should be made by the agencies affected. Therefore the sub-bullet beginning with “The list” is removed per the Committee.

- “The flyer will be approved by CODHHE before distribution”.

Christy said that since CODHHE meets every two months and this Committee meets every month, this could be difficult. Kyle stated that he would distribute to CODHHE via e-mail and ask for approval or objections. Certain things like workshops and information would not need to be approved by CODHHE. Comments on regulations may need to be approved by CODHHE. It was agreed to omit this bullet.

- “The subcommittee will identify and advertise specific trainings that providers, interpreters and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population may be interested in attending”.

It was agreed to leave this as stated above.

- “The subcommittee will work with various state agencies to promote deaf awareness and develop appropriate trainings”.

Kyle suggested replacing the word “state” with “Delaware”

- Mission Statement

The Mission Statement should read—The mission of the Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equality Behavioral Health on Deafness Subcommittee is to promote and advocate for legislation, regulations, programs and policies to ensure that individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind Delawareans and their families receive quality mental health, substance abuse and addiction services which meet their individual needs. It was agreed to remove the last sentence: The subcommittee will follow the Federal and State regulation related to individual with disabilities.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the above Mission Statement and responsibilities.

Strategic Plan for 5 year plans

Christy wants this committee to develop a 5 year plan which outlines the subcommittee’s business. Kyle said that this is a big undertaking and you may want to devote a few meetings, at a minimum, for just the strategic plan. Or, you could focus on a one or two year plan. You may want to the issues and decide which ones to tackle. On the next agenda, we can add “Issues or Prioritization of Issues”\

DODHH Interpreter List Follow-Up

Kyle referred the committee an e-mail from HarrietAnn Litwin which was provided. At a couple of meetings, the Committee has talked about the DODHH’s role of referring interpreters. At the last meeting, Loretta explained that their policy now is to refer people

to the RID website, so that DVR/DODHH does not have any liability if the interpreter services are not acceptable. There was more discussion at the last meeting and it was thought that maintaining the interpreter list from Loretta's office was good idea. Therefore, it was suggested that DVR/DODHH add a waiver statement saying that they are not responsible for interpreter services provided from the referral list. So, Kyle e-mailed HarrietAnn describing what we talked about, DVR/DODHH wants to keep referring people to the RID's website.

Loretta added that an interpreter will pay RID a fee to be a member. However, if you look on the certified interpreter member list, they have an extensive screening and that certification level is listed on the website, so Loretta encourages people to use only certified interpreters by RID. Loretta stated that there are also non-certified interpreters on the RID website and RID does recognize those as associate members who may still be in training and not as qualified. Barbara noted that she did not find the RID website as user friendly.

Kyle added that there are other local interpreter agencies which he will provide to Barbara. Loretta said that they also have an instruction sheet that explains ASL, signed English, voicing and voice interpreter with an explanation to these terms. Loretta will send it via e-mail.

Report on Statistics

Helen gave an overview of her report and will e-mail a copy to Kyle.

As of Monday 10/15, Wilmington Community Mental Health Center, one client is seen once a month with an interpreter = 12 service hours; one person is non-compliant by not showing for their appointment (canceled at the last minute)—but, we had to pay for the interpreter. This client prefers to use an interpretype—for confidentiality reasons.

The Newark Community Mental Health Clinic has one client seen weekly with a therapist and an interpreter—and also calls once a week and uses the TTY—52 service hours.

The Dover Community Mental Health Clinic has three clients. One client has a hearing aide (and is seen 4 times a year) and usually does not use an interpreter—but, if he cannot hear well, he uses ASL which the therapist is able to use and understand. One other client has a cochlear implant and does not require any interpreter services. The other client is moving out of the area. Total of 4 service hours.

The Sussex Community Mental Health Clinic has no clients.

As of Monday, October 15, 2007, 68 service hours have been provided.

It was suggested that if after the service is provided to deaf and hard of hearing clients, they complete a survey that this committee could develop. Helen said that once a year,

the division does a survey by hiring people to go to the various clients and do a survey on the services. Helen could send an e-mail to Renata to ask if a survey could be completed. It was stated that many deaf clients question if they are going to be received well by the providers. Helen made a presentation to AstraZenaca and asked them what do they offer deaf people with mental illness. They offer a very liberal benefits package. Helen said that according to the law, if you are not a signing therapist, you will need to have an interpreter and the service provider has to pay for the interpreter. Kyle said that directions were given to Helen's division to contact Gallaudet College to find a graduate. Kyle suggested that Christy to e-mail Kirsten Olsen from Connections to give a similar report as Helen's report.

Reports/Announcements

- Loretta provided hand-outs regarding a presentation on Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness. Jim Fleming the Trainer/Educator at the Public Health Preparedness Center agreed to set up a satellite. The presentation will be at the Public Health Preparedness Lab Room at the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill campus on October 24 at 2 pm. The satellite will have text captioning. There will be an interpreter on the screen and there will be a live interpreter so we can have a discussion on the presentation as it relates to Delaware. Loretta is on the Committee for Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Non-typical needs. The Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Kyle, State Police, National Guard, the Division of Public Health and others are included and they are developing procedures and policies for evacuation.

Kyle and Linda will not be able to attend the next meeting on November 15—okay per Christy to cancel this meeting. Christy said the next meeting will on January 17 at 9:30 am, IRI at Wilmington. Feel free to e-mail concerns before the January meeting. The 2008 meeting calendar will be sent out to all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
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