

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
November 17, 2009
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
1:00 pm

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair); Loretta Sarro, DODHH/DVR; Joshua Weinstein, MCC; Christine Zenorini, Connections, CSP, Inc.; Lois Steele; Debra Torrijos, Observer; Kyle Hodges, Staff

Interpreter: Pamela D'Occhio,

Guests:

No Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September 15, 2009 meeting minutes as amended (shorten Joshua's affiliation to MCC).

Chair Report

Christy reported that she attended a Mental Health Fair on Thursday, November 12 in Pennsylvania that Joshua's organization hosted. Christy reported that there were a lot of partnerships and networking opportunities, with Dr. William Kachman (Associate Director at the Gallaudet University Mental Health Center) doing an amazing and informative presentation regarding his experiences with his clients. He also touched on substance abuse for those who are deaf, resources available for assessments for ADD and ADHD.

Loretta suggested inviting Dr. Kachman to a workshop here in Delaware (previously done by DSAMH that included a lot of providers) and this would provide an opportunity to network. Loretta stated that we are looking for grant opportunities to set a network up in Delaware. Loretta suggested a new workshop should focus on services. Kyle suggested Loretta make contact with DSAMH since she has regular contact with them, but if not, this group could do something. Loretta will ask if Consumer Recovery Advocate Coalition of Delaware has funds available devoted to support initiatives for the deaf community. Loretta suggested that Christy could bring her clients to a Strategic Planning meeting on Friday, November 13 – 1:00-3:00 pm at the Administration Building, Herman Holloway Campus. Joshua commented that setting up the Fair was quite simple; he added that they had a committee comprising of agencies like his who provide services for deaf and hard of hearing clients, vendors who were networking and consumers looking for services and providers. Christy commented that there is definitely a need for something like this in Delaware. Christy suggested planning a year in advance and at the next meeting in January, coming up with some possible dates (probably in

early 2011) and discuss possible locations, speakers, invitations, etc. Christy added that it was important to have in a centralized location and funding would determine location. There was some discussion regarding having a fair vs. a workshop, but it was decided to table this discussion until the next meeting. Joshua stated that Dr. Kachman was willing to share resources with us.

Christy stated that while Christiana Hospital does fairly well, she was not sure about other hospitals. Dover Behavior Health had a client who struggled with getting interpreting services; the person was discharged with a list of appointments and was told to bring an interpreter. Christy had to make numerous calls, get lists of interpreters, etc. and could not believe that these providers did not know how to get interpreters. Christy had to contact all the providers on the list in order to find one who would provide an interpreter (Everett & Associates). They have developed a guideline so when a deaf client comes to their agency, they have some sort of handbook to refer to the correct procedure or protocol. Joshua also commented that Dr. Kachman suggested that when you develop a partnership and send out mailers, have someone also meet with the providers or develop a guideline together - use Dr. Kachman's outline, and then send out so they do know the protocol. Christy suggested writing a letter to Abigail Hinson to explaining that deaf people are not required to pay for interpreters and that the agencies providing the service have to get interpreters and pay for it; this also needs to go to all providers. Kyle will draft this letter, but will have Christy review it before sending.

Business:

Kyle provided the latest draft changes to the DPC policy.

Kyle had incorporated all changes from the last meeting, with Joshua's input, and wanted the group to review and determine how to move forward. There was discussion about J. regarding who determines the amount of time for interpreting services and that the client needs to be involved in the process. Kyle commented that there were several issues around J. as follows: the patient needs to be part of the treatment team, fleshing out the language in regard to the amount of interpreter services required, and involving someone knowledgeable (or a clinician) to help out with this process. Kyle suggested speaking to Steve Dettwyler on issues that need clarification.

G. Kyle suggested getting clarification on this section when we meet with Steve. While G. focuses on the patient's rights, we may want to add a new section to be put before G. that focuses on when the interpreter arrives - there needs to be a few minutes to establish clear communication and that it is a good fit. G. will be left as is for now.

Kyle asked the group about adding a definition for deaf and hard of hearing and video phone as previously discussed. Joshua suggested discussing with Steve when he comes to the meeting. A suggestion was made to add language that patients be offered currently accepted technology when available and address portability of that accepted technology. Joshua suggested that closed captioning be on the televisions at all times. This was agreed to by the group. The last section (Signs and Symptoms of Possible Hearing Loss)

needs to be reviewed, but we need to find out what is their intent. Loretta will provide Kyle a list and explanation of the different types of interpreters and Kyle will forward to everyone.

Consumer Survey

A decision was made to discuss this at the January meeting if DPC is not discussed at that time. Loretta stated that on December 16 at 6:00 pm, Delaware Association for the Deaf is having an ASL Film Night. The name of the film is “Gerald”. Loretta commented that when people arrive, they could have them fill out the Consumer Survey. Kyle asked how many surveys have been completed at this point and Christy said about 30 since last summer. Christy would like to have the data collection from the summer of 09 until December and then have a report in early 2010.

Deaf Sensitivity Training

On October 13th, Loretta Sarro, Public Information Officer of the Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Betsy Tucker, Co-Trainer and Certified Sign Language Interpreter, provided a presentation - Deaf Culture 101 workshop - to Laura Giles, Planning Coordinator and Cheryl Cooper, Trainer/Educator from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (a State agency), Barbara Schroeder, Therapist of the Women’s Abuse Prevention Treatment Program at Child, Inc. and Karen Miller, Deaf Ministry from the Bethesda United Methodist Church. The training was held in the DVR meeting room at the DOL Fox Valley building. Loretta provided tips on ways to communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, described assistive technology used by individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, and explained the availability of telecommunication relay services options. Betsy explained the role of sign language interpreters and described the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct.

A suggestion was made to give this training to Connections; they currently have four clients who use Connections’ services.

Vice – Chair for Committee

Hank Passi was the former Vice-Chair and we need someone to volunteer to take this position. Loretta commented that it should be someone already familiar with mental health services, providers and clients and whom can run the meeting in Christy’s absence. Lois was appointed Vice-Chair.

Reports/Announcements

The last 2009 Deaf Professional Happy Hour will be at The Gray Fox on Kirkwood Highway (near Meadowood Shopping Center). They will start again in February and have different locations listed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

The next meeting will be on January 19 at 1:00 pm at IRI in Wilmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
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