

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
April 15, 2009
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
10:00 am

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair); Cliff Rodman; Loretta Sarro; Joshua Weinstein and Christine Zenorini

Interpreter: Pamela D'Occhio

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

- Loretta will discuss the BHDC future meeting dates/times

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the February 18, 2009 meeting minutes as submitted.

Chair Report

Christy attended a Philadelphia Mental Health Committee for the Deaf meeting with Joshua at the Center for Community and Professional of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia. Christy added that this meeting was very interesting and resourceful! Representatives from various agencies and organizations attended as well as a Legal Aid representative.

Business

Survey

Christy and Joshua revised the draft "Mental Health Survey for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Population" to make it easier to understand. The survey was e-mailed to the Committee members for review and input. The survey was approved by all. Christy assigned each representative to send the survey to the deaf community.

Other Business

Christy is waiting for Husam "Sam" Abdallah, Director of the Delaware Psychiatric Center (DPC) for the Department of Health and Social Services, to send a copy of the DPC policy for the subcommittee to review and provide input on the policy. Christy has not received a copy from the Director. Pam stated that DPC has not been providing interpreter services for intake processing. DPC had not been providing the intake process when transferring a client from Wilmington Hospital to DPC. DPC stated that they did not need to go through the intake

process again since they knew that client. Pam stated that she educated DPC that it is necessary to schedule an interpreter for this intake processing.

It was agreed by the Committee to invite Dan Atkins, Legal Advocate Director of the Disabilities Law Program of the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. to the next meeting to discuss DPC's processing issues. Christy will e-mail Dan with an invite to the June Committee meeting.

Loretta suggested having a meeting with Michael Kelleher, the DSAMH Acting Director, to discuss the Committee's advocacy role for the Deaf Mental Health population. An invitation will be extended to Steven Dettwyler (who knows our advocacy role) to participate in the meeting.

Pam stated that community mental health agencies have been calling her interpreter service agency more than ever—this is good news. However, these agencies have been requesting interpreter services with less than 24 hours notice. It was added that Pam will educate these agencies to provide between 48 hours to one week's scheduling notice for an interpreter to attend clients' appointments.

Joshua will contact Cathy McKay, Director, Connections CSP about the possibility of getting a contract for services specially for the deaf persons at Connections.

Loretta suggested the possibility of having the BHDC meetings on a different day and time of the week beginning with the September meeting. Some of the members are unable to come to the Wednesday morning meetings. Christy agreed to e-mail the members to see if Monday, Tuesday or Thursdays afternoon meetings would be a better time.

After one of our future committee meetings, Joshua would like to share a DVD movie that lasts for 59 minutes entitled "Audism Unveiled".

Reports/Announcements

Joshua announced that he is coordinating a Mental Health Network Event in Philadelphia on either November 4, 5 or 12, 2009. The topic of this event is "Partnership". The speaker will be William Katchman, the Associate Director of the Mental Health Center of Gallaudet University.

The next meeting will be on June 17 at 10:00 am at IRI in Wilmington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator

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