

Behavior Health on Deafness Sub-Committee Meeting
May 18, 2010
Independent Resources, Inc.
Wilmington, DE
1:00 pm

Present: Christy Hennessey (Chair); Lois Steele (Vice-Chair); Loretta Sarro, DODHH; Christina Zenorini, Connections; Kyle Hodges, Staff

Interpreter: Pamela D'Occhio

Guests: Polli Funk, Contact Lifeline/Sexual Assault Network of Delaware
Della Thomas, Director, Delaware School for the Deaf and Statewide Programs
for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Additions:

- ♦ Inmates Mental Health Assessment
- ♦ Follow Up to Dover Behavioral Health Issue

Deletion:

- ♦ Title name “ness” – Joshua Weinstein since Joshua could not attend today’s meeting. Kyle asked for clarification regarding this. Christy explained it was about the word “Deafness” in the name of the Sub-Committee, but wanted to table this until Josh could attend.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting as amended (where it says Joshua, it should be Christy) under the Chair Report and change word “spoken” to “contacted.”

Chair Report

No update.

Business:

Polli Funk, ContactLifeline

Polli stated that she is the Policy Prevention Director for ContactLifeline, which is a 24/7 crisis line, handling a variety of calls, from those who may be suicidal or depressed. Polli distributed three brochures about her agency (Contact Lifeline Services, Supportive Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence and SAND). The other part of the agency handles rape crisis, which provides 24/7 coverage. Rape Crisis provides coverage to the hospitals, which involves being there for a patient who has been the victim of a sexual assault, at the patient’s request. They will also go to

the police departments and the courts if an individual requests such. Polli stated that they also take phone calls from victims' survivors of sexual violence. Polli added that the rape crisis advocate's title is being changed to sexual violence specialist. Polli said that Contact Lifeline does utilize the relay system to communicate with a deaf and/or hard of hearing person. They are the part of the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND) and the Sexual Assault Coalition (similar to the Domestic Violence Coalition) and are comprised of different aspects of the criminal justice system, the hospitals, survivors, victims' service providers, and anyone who has an interest be being there to raise awareness, address issues, and policy & concerns surrounding the issues of sexual violence. They try to ensure a victim centered approach, where the victim truly has a voice in how the process is going to proceed. Polli stated that sexual violence is not a mandatory reportable crime in the State of Delaware if the victim is aged 18 and older. There also are subcommittees, one of which is the Sex Offender Management, and was comprised of predominantly law enforcement officers who were doing notifications in the community about sex offenders. A survey came out of that group to find out who was doing what in terms of managing sex offenders. They educated and informed the Legislature that they had concern that the police were not being provided resources in order to do their job. There is now a Sex Offender Management Board that SAND is part of which helps bring it back to a victim-centered approach. They are involved with the Victims' Rights Task Force (with Pat Maichle) and serve on the disability subcommittee. They are also part of the Building Partnership Initiative (currently in only 4 states). Polli added that currently they are responding to Dean Ammons Report regarding Dr. Bradley. Even though they work predominantly with adults, Contact Lifeline also goes into the wellness centers and works with teens. They are also involved in a Community Prevention group as well. Kyle asked how SAND was established. Polli explained that SAND began as a project of ContactLifeline. Polli stated that they are always looking for volunteers to man the phones and do rape crisis. Kyle also asked what prohibits them from lobbying and Polli explained that the federal grant they receive prevents them from lobbying, although they are allowed to educate and inform. Kyle asked how they interact with VCAP (Victims' Compensation Assistance Program). Polli explained that all of their services are free, but their counselors also help survivors do the applications. Also, Gail Riblet (Co-Chair of SAND) sits on the VCAP Advisory Board. They are also represented on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and Teen Dating Violence Task Force. Polli added that SAND meets every other month (first Thursday), although the Subcommittees meet more frequently. Kyle asked about their involvement with 211 and Polli said that they do get referrals from them and after-hours calls (since 211 is not 24/7 currently). Polli commented that their main office is in Wilmington, but they do have an office downstate that serves Kent & Sussex Counties.

Della asked about the multi-language capability listed on their brochure and asked how they train people, particularly in working in the deaf community, in terms of cultural sensitivity. Polli explained that they bring in people to provide cultural sensitivity training, but was not sure if someone from the deaf community has participated and was very open to doing so. Polli stated that the training coordinators are Elissa McCourt (Crisis Services Director) and Erica Hicks (Coordinator) and they would be the contacts (302-761-9800 Elissa x1002/Erica x1004). Polli added that they can also do training in the community, for example, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. Kyle will make contact with Elissa and Erica. Polli stated that sexual violence is a huge unreported crime and extremely unreported in the deaf community (including

persons with disabilities in general). Polli stated that they want to raise awareness that support services are available. Christy offered to give ContactLifeline two TTY for their use (one for their New Castle Co. office and one for their Kent & Sussex office).

Mental Health Fair Planning – February 7th, 2011

Christy stated they were trying to lock in a date (when the students will not be there). The purpose of the Fair is to have vendors and providers to raise awareness, get the information out of what resources are available, and to network. Della commented that February 7th works out great for DSD since it is a professional development day. Della added that their gym and multipurpose room would be available. Christy stated that room would be needed for 10-15 booths and about 50-75 people. Christy invited Polli's group to participate. A decision was made to hold the Fair on Monday, Feb. 7, 2011, from 9:00-12 noon (including time for presenters and social time). Christy will provide interpreters and Della offered to have DSD interpreters available if needed. Kyle asked who would be the prime sponsor and suggested that it could be a coalition of sponsors once a flyer is done (including DSD, CODHHE). He added that there usually is a charge for booths. Christy will ask Josh how that was handled for the Fair in which he was involved. Potential presenters/exhibitors suggested were: Gallaudet University, DSD (in relation to a track for school-age children), DSCYF/DCMH (possibly Cliff Rodman), ContactLifeline/SOAR (Survivors of Abuse and Recovery) and DSAMH. Kyle also suggested having someone who could give a Delaware perspective. Christy suggested focusing on behavioral health, which would include substance abuse. There was discussion about changing the Fair to Behavioral Health Networking Event, but a decision was made to keep it as a Mental Health Fair because that would be broader since SAND would also be there, along with DSAMH. A decision was made to have an RSVP setup in case there is a lot of interest in the Fair and we will also need to know how many interpreters are needed. Polli commented that ContactLifeline and SAND would exhibit together.

Lois suggested having someone from the Insurance Commissioner's Office to explain how interpreter needs can be covered with insurance, and this could be a persuader to agencies and sites that provide direct care that need interpreters, if they knew they could resource back to the insurance company. Lois added that she envisioned a pool of money derived from each patient (for example a \$1). That money could be drawn down from a general pool of money. Lois added that this would create more of a willingness to provide interpreters. Kyle asked if this would better as a presentation at the Fair or as a topic for this Committee or CODHHE. Kyle will contact individuals at the Insurance Commissioner's Office. Lois suggested bringing someone to a meeting and then adding the topic to a Fair later. Lois also suggested that, once pros and cons are listed out, a paper could be created to explain such. Polli suggested developing a resource guide to distribute. Suggestion was also made to have a Medicaid representative attend the same meeting. Lois also said that in the past hospitals were required to offer the services to a certain percentage of the people for free and that possibly interpreting services could be paid from that (Hillburton Act), if it still is in existence.

Christy will be in contact with Della regarding the Fair. Kyle suggested if a special meeting needs to be held in planning the Fair, he could help facilitate it. He also stated it should be a standing agenda item for future meetings. Della will be included in these meetings.

DPC Policy – Steven Dettwyler

Christy stated that she had received an email from Steve saying that he has been discussing this policy with DSAMH's Director Kevin Ann Huckshorn. Kyle will check his emails, but thought that they were okay with the changes suggested. If the Committee is okay with the final draft (handout), he will also share this with CODHHE tomorrow.

Inmates Mental Health Assessment

Christy brought up an issue regarding an inmate that needed to speak to her and asked the interpreter to send a message. In questioning the inmate, Christy found out the interpreter was doing a mental health assessment and she felt the interpreter was not qualified to do that. Christy is asking the Committee if she should contact the prison system and educate them on the differences between interpreters and who is qualified to do this assessment. Christie also wanted to find out if the prison has a written policy regarding a situation like this. Christy stated that if they do not have such a policy, they need to have one. Kyle thought it was a good idea to ask and suggested contacting the prison and also the Department of Correction (DOC). Kyle added that this issue was addressed a long time ago and involved the Disabilities Law Program (DLP). Kyle stated that he will follow-up with the DOC (Ron Hosterman was given as a contact name) and Christy will follow-up as needed (Pat Ditto was given as a contact name). Lois also added that consumers need to be educated about saying that a certain interpreter is not a good match for them. Kyle commented that the consumer may not know that the interpreter is not qualified. Loretta stated that there is a big difference between certified from an ASL Program and ITP (Interpreter Training Program) trained, but they may not be ready for this type of interpreting. Loretta added that the RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) lists out the different certifications. Loretta stated that Maria Chambers runs the court orientation for interpreters for the Courts and will email Kyle that information.

Follow Up to Dover Behavioral Health Issue

Christy referred to the email in the meeting packet (handout). Kyle gave an overview of the issue and as a result a letter was sent to Dover Behavioral Health by CODHHE regarding interpreting services and being unable to secure providers of aftercare services who provide interpreter services as part of the discharge process (handout). Kyle stated the response from Dover Behavioral Health (handout) was to ask for a list of behavioral health providers that provide interpreters. Lois commented that her experience has been, when calling different providers on different occasions, you will get two different answers. Polli will check with SOAR (referenced on list-handout) to see if they provide interpreter services and let Kyle know by next week. Kyle will follow-up with Peoples Place (referenced on list-handout). Kyle stated that, after following up on the providers listed on the handout, feedback should be provided to Dover Behavioral Health from either Christy or Kyle.

Announcements

- ♦ Kyle announced that he received an email from Cliff Rodman stating that he has resigned from this Committee. Christy will ask Cliff to make a recommendation for someone to replace him. Christy added that it was important to get someone who has deaf awareness.
- ♦ Christy announced that there is a Deaf Professional Happy Hour on Friday, May 21st at Kildare's Irish Pub on Main Street in Newark, from 5 pm – 7 pm. They are having these about four times a year. The purpose of the Happy Hour is to share and network.
- ♦ Loretta announced that DVR is holding public meetings (one in Dover and one in Wilmington) next week, from 2:30-4:00 pm. These are annual meetings about DVR services.
- ♦ There was some discussion regarding updating the police academies and departments regarding the deaf issues. Kyle stated that DDC is looking into training on disability issues. Kyle added that this idea has been well received and deaf issues are considered near the top of the list. When they are ready for this training, Kyle will contact Christy.
- ♦ Kyle announced that there is an ADA 20th Celebration on July 26 at the Pavilion in Rehoboth Beach, from 12 noon – 3 pm. Matt Denn will be there for introductions and Eagle 97 FM will be doing some promoting.
- ♦ Loretta briefly spoke about the Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting on Friday, May 14 and said there was discussion of a voluntary registration (called First Call). The form is online and will be discussed at the CODHHE meeting. Loretta will be asking five people to volunteer to test this tool during the trial period (July 1st is the target date for collecting this feedback). Kyle added that the information collected would be used in case of emergency or disaster situation, so that shelters, first responders, etc. can be prepared to handle special needs. Loretta added that there will be annual reminders sent out to update the form.
- ♦ Kyle mentioned to Christy that Helpline has CODHHE listed as being under IRI. He will get this corrected.

The meeting ended at 2:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 19, 2010 at 1:00 pm at IRI in Wilmington. Polli will be added to the distribution list for these meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Hodges
CODHHE Administrator
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