

Meeting Minutes
COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS COUNCIL

April 19, 2008

Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, Sparks, NV

ROLL CALL:

Members: Cindy Frank, Dennis Granata, Denise Phipps, Theresa Piccinini, Linda Raymond, Vice Chairman, & Kim Holloway **Absent:** Kim Ryan, Jana Vickers, Chairman, James Womack, & Karen Pearl

Staff: Betty Hammond

Interpreters: Jessica Ludlow

CART: Marcia Ferrell

Guests: Craig Radford, Sprint, David Daviton, Annmarie Giblin

INTRODUCTIONS:

Linda Raymond, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:40am. Introductions were made by all present. Acting Chairman discussed housekeeping information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting was offered by Cindy Frank, seconded by Betty Hammond and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Vickers was ill and unable to make the meeting. Linda Raymond, Vice-Chair, ran the meeting. She reminded the Council to let Ms. Hammond know if there was a particular item they would like to see on the agenda.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES STAFF REPORT:

Ms. Hammond informed the Council that the office was getting ready for the next RFP (Request for Proposals) for Traditional Relay Services and CapTel. She informed the Council that the Purchasing Department would provide a draft, RFP notices would be sent, and a committee for the RFP process would be set up to select a provider.

RELAY SERVICE PROVIDER'S REPORT:

Mr. Craig Radford reported to the Council various outreach activities sponsored by Relay Nevada and/or Sprint. A movie called "The Wrong Game" was shown in Las Vegas and in Reno. Relay Nevada sponsored an event called "Deaf Pride Day" at Western Nevada College; sandwiches, coffee, and various food items were provided.

Mr. Radford reported that he and Ms. Hammond chose some items from a catalogue to order as "freebies" to give to attendees at various events. Ms. Hammond reported that she and Mr. Radford attempted to get items recommended by the Council and were somewhat limited in getting all the Council recommendations due to funding limitations.

Mr. Radford stated that Relay Nevada would like to have events in Las Vegas, Elko and Reno and asked the Council to inform him if Relay Nevada could have a presence at future events.

Mr. Radford explained a new service to the Council called “Web CapTel”. Web CapTel is an internet based service and is useful for people who may not qualify for CapTel but would still like to use the service. The internet based service is useful for people who travel and may not be able to bring their CapTel phone with them. He stated that in order to begin the process, you should use the internet and go to www.sprintcapter.com to begin the registration process as a first time user. He stated the registration is important for a 9-1-1 registry, also. He said three things need to be present to use the service and they are: internet access, a computer and a phone or cell phone. He stated that if a person wanted someone to call them using the service they would have to set an appointment with each other. The person using the CapTel would provide the 800 number to the calling party; it can be done that way. He emphasized that persons with visual impairments using this system could change font size and color of the background to fit their needs. He also stated that there is a Spanish service. He also mentioned that using this system would allow a person to save and print their conversations. He stated that the system uses a voice recognition system and does not employ captioners.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AND ADVOCACY REPORTS:

Ms. Theresa Piccinini reported on activities of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Center (DHHARC). She informed the Council on the latest fund raising efforts to support Camp Sign Shine. She said there would be a “Fun Run” next week in Sacramento to raise funds and a “Bike Run” (motorcycle) on the 31st of May.

She stated the “Communication Arts Camp” would be held during the second week of August in Reno as opposed to Carson where it had been held the last few years. She said there would be an appreciation BBQ on the Saturday after the Camp. DHHARC will do more outreach and work in rural areas such as Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, & Fernley. She said the agency is recruiting volunteers and signing experts to sign with children to assist in increasing their vocabulary.

She stated that the free American Sign Language (ASL) class in Reno is now complete. She said volunteers, most of them Deaf, taught parents and relatives of Deaf children ASL. She indicated there were about 30 people who showed up weekly to take the classes and the agency plans to bring the classes, using the same materials, to rural areas. She stated that the agency also continues to work with various agencies such as, Aging Services, Family Services, police departments and hospitals in rural areas.

In the south, they are working in rural areas as well such as Pahrump, Border City and Mesquite. They had a town hall meeting in Pahrump and 15 people attended. Ms. Raymond, Vice Chairman, made a comment that services needed to be available for everyone and related a story about a person in Las Vegas who was from Mexico and needed extra service; yet instead he was given a referral to an interpreting agency so he could have an interpreter. She expressed a need for more in depth services in Las Vegas. She also mentioned using more than one company when agencies or organizations are doing outreach. Ms. Hammond agreed and clarified that various vendors should be used for outreach activities.

INTERPRETER/CAPTIONING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Kim Holloway gave the Council an updated on the activities of the subcommittee. She stated that the subcommittee has developed a variety of forms and letters but that the overall draft was held up due to problems with a contractor hired to provide a draft of the regulations to the

group. She stated that the Office of Disability Services is working on the draft and it will be sent out via email as soon as possible. Linda Raymond, Vice Chairman, added that the Clark County School district has already changed their job descriptions to reflect the tier concept in the law for educational interpreters. Ms. Frank asked if the school district would be willing to share the information with Washoe County School District. It was agreed that the information would be shared. Ms. Raymond added that, in addition to the job description updates, the district is working on training mentors with the assistance of Cynthia Napier, as they have funds to set up a special training program for mentors.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Denise Phipps informed the Council that CART is being provided at the junior high school level in Washoe County now. Cindy Frank updated the Council regarding the Legislative Advisory Group on Education. She informed the Council that the Committee is in support of training interpreters, but there are money issues currently. Linda Raymond shared that Nevada State College will start their BA program this fall for training teachers for the Deaf. Betty Hammond mentioned that she received a text message from Kimberly Dawson who was scheduled to interpret at today's CAC meeting and she informed her that their family pet had passed away. She sent apologies for missing the meeting. Ms. Hammond also handed out the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders - 2006-07 resource directories.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE:

Due to various activities happening in July; the Council agreed to select a meeting date in August. Ms. Hammond will check with NVAD (Nevada Association for the Deaf) to see if the meetings can be coordinated since the association and the Council share members; she will email the Council with possible dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.