

Meeting Minutes
COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS COUNCIL
June 13, 2009
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
999 Pyramid Way
Sparks, Nevada 89431

ROLL CALL:

Members: Jana Vickers, Dennis Granata, Karen Pearl, Denise Phipps, Linda Raymond, Kim Ryan. **Absent:** Cindy Frank, Kimberlee Holloway, Theresa Piccinini

Staff: Betty Hammond, Laura Rich

Interpreters: Shannon Archer, Andrea Juillerat

CART: Marcia Ferrell

Guests: Michael Baer, Laura Daviton

INTRODUCTIONS:

Jana Vickers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:55 am. Introductions were made by all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 6th, 2008 meeting was offered by Karen Pearl, seconded by Linda Raymond and unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chair Vickers gave a brief explanation of the legislation regarding insurance coverage of hearing aids in other states. Currently, twelve states have legislation requiring coverage for children, while only one (Rhode Island) extends this coverage to adults. Chair Vickers asked the council if this was an issue they would like to investigate and pursue. Ms. Hammond explained that if this was something the council would like to move forward with, they must get approval from ODS one year in advance of the next legislative session. It was agreed that the members would do some research on this and bring it up at the next meeting. Ms. Pearl recommended going through similar legislation that has passed in other states, in addition to contacting legislators and insurance lobbyists.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES STAFF REPORT:

Ms. Hammond briefed the members on the current goals and objects of the DHHARC and requested feedback for the new fiscal year. Ms. Pearl noted the need to clarify that these are annual, not quarterly goals. Additional recommendations and discussions included:

- More clearly defining "contacts" in the definition of goals (Objective 1.02).
- A more accurate counting system was discussed where the focus would be on using units of time rather than simply counting activities (Objective 2.01).
- Ms. Hammond informed the group that the ODS merge with Aging Services will facilitate access to SAMS, a counting and tracking system, providing more precise figures (Objective 2.01).
- There was discussion regarding the addition of a grant funded position specializing in domestic violence outreach and possible other areas of need in the community. Ms.

Hammond stated she would meet with Edina and word the objective to reflect this goal (Objective 4.01).

- Ms. Daviton suggested the implementation of surveys to determine which type of workshops and seminars consumers desire (Objective 4.02).
- Advocacy buy-in from different entities (Objective 4.03).
- Ms. Ryan also suggested that the advocacy center approach different institutions such as the bar association or the public defenders office, and make them aware of the resources available when they receive a deaf client (Objective 4.03).
- Offering workshops at conventions in order to educate on ADA and other disability laws (Objective 4.05).
- Adjusting the distribution numbers communication devices such as TTY and VCO's (Objective 1.01)

Ms. Hammond also addressed the interpreter complaint procedures, noting that only two complaints have been filed and that they have both been able to be handled by ODS. Currently, if an interpreter is not registered and a complaint is filed, the case gets sent to the D.A. If the interpreter is RID certified, the case gets sent to RID. The only question lies within the EIPA certified individuals. The regulations currently state that in these situations, either ODS, mediation or the CAC can handle the complaint. Ms. Pearl voiced concerns over the CAC's role in handling complaints and the liability it could bring to the council. It was suggested that the regulations be amended.

Ms. Hammond updated the council on her collaboration with Debi Galloway, the statewide emergency manager. There have been discussions to produce an emergency preparedness DVD for the deaf in ASL. Ms Galloway has agreed to fund this project and they are now in the process of working with the Nevada Broadcasters Association.

RELAY SERVICE PROVIDER'S REPORT:

Mr. Michael Baer, representative for Sprint, began by showing the council the new website which he hopes to make a one-stop shop by linking it to resources such as the DHHARC, ODS and RID. He also demonstrated the website visual tutorial explaining how to use Relay services, which he noted was needed for the hearing public. In addition, Mr. Baer introduced some new phones, notably the CapTel 800i. This phone allows a client to have both an analog and internet connection simultaneously and is an improvement on the previous 200 model. Ms. Daviton noted that the DHHARC staff is responsible for training on the use of these phones.

Ms. Hammond informed the council of the new model's inability to have the captions turned off; which could result in more minutes for CapTel being billed to the telecommunications fund.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AND ADVOCACY REPORTS:

Ms. Vickers briefed the council on Ms. Piccinini's DHHARC report which included accomplishments of the center up to the third quarter. It was mentioned that the northern Nevada DHHARC is conducting an evaluation on the state of the school district, to which Ms. Ryan voiced concerns over the credentials of those evaluating.

INTERPRETER/CAPTIONING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Ryan updated the council on suggested modifications to the interpreter bill, including waiver requirements, grievance procedures and mentoring conditions. The council had no feedback or questions concerning these changes at this time.

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF NEW OFFICER(S):

A motion was offered by Mr. Granata to nominate Ms. Raymond for Chair The motioned was seconded by Ms. Pearl and unanimously approved.

A motion was offered by Ms. Hammond to nominate Ms. Vickers for Vice Chair The motioned was seconded by Mr. Granata and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting will be decided via email.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.