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Commission Report

Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN) – Executive Director’s Report

Commission Report

Deaf Centers of Nevada (DCN) – Report

Presented to the Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired

Report Date:

November 10, 2020

Successes and Wins

- Accomplishments above and beyond what is reported to our grantors:
 - September 2020’s cumulative engagements provided to stakeholders from all direct service platforms within DCN, including data reported to our grantors, totaled 14,240 organization wide (current updates for October in progress).
 - In average over the last 3 months DCN has seen a steady increase in engagements since our last Commission Report.

Collaborations and Service Expansions

- Updates on any partnerships established, new or existing:
 - DCN currently holds 59 collaborative allies (aids in resources, community platforms, and/or events), 62 partners (114 partner contacts), with 28 potential partnerships in the works.
- Updates on expanded services outside of our grantors:
 - No current updates though the DCN Executive Director has continued providing feedback to the Commission as it pertains to the funding aspect of the SB203 Hearing Aid Program and the language currently stated within the NRS.

Community Challenges

- Challenges or opportunities to improve services for the target population:
 - In speaking with our staff, we are getting reports of the following:

Las Vegas
8020 W Sahara Ave, Ste 125
Las Vegas, NV 89117
702-363-3323 TEL
702-475-4751 VP
702-685-0324 FAX

Reno
1324 Airmotive Way, Ste 225
Reno, NV 89502
775-332-7700 TEL
775-473-9452 VP
702-685-0324 FAX

- Community members having a hard time finding audiologist that are affordable WITHOUT insurance.
- Lack of D/HH education/support within the school system due to Social Distancing.
- Reports from the community having challenges with obtaining interpreters at DMV. Our advocates are working closely with the concerns.
- Social distancing remains to present challenges for cultural needs of the community as a whole and DCN is see a higher rate of virtual fatigue.
- Slower family and children engagements virtually due to exhaustion or lack of WiFi/internet services in the rural areas.
- The need for employment continues.
- There is also an influx of need for Technology, yet clients are seeking for in home repairs or installations that DCN is not yet prepared to support.
- DCN is experiencing a hiring freeze that has presented challenges of meeting the demands of the community.
- DCN in general is struggling with diversifying funding as COVID and social distancing has limited our Board and Staff's outreach efforts.

Recommendations for the Commission

- Decisions/recommendations needed by the Commission (if any):
 - The Subcommittee is addressing the concerns of the SB203 law as it is currently written. DCN has no other decision/recommendations to present to the Commission.
 - DCN does seek additional input from the Commission for ideas of possible connections with affiliates in our efforts to diversify our funding.

Upcoming Events/Announcements

- DCN has positions that will be posted in Reno and Las Vegas.
 - Reno:
 - Assistive Technology Specialist (Full-Time)
 - Field Interpreter (Part-Time)
 - Las Vegas:
 - Assistive Technology Specialist (Full-Time)
 - Hearing Loss Advocate (Full-Time)
 - Field Interpreter (Full-Time)
 - PT ASL Teacher (Part-Time)

Additional Information

DCN Update:

- New Hires:
 - Melanie Frey, Director of Finance (Statewide) – Start date: October 26th, 2020

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Final Note:

- DCN has gone through a multitude of changes throughout the last year and a half yet has persevered through it all. This was not on our own. The Deaf Community is filled with fighters, individuals seeking equity and a better future for our community. We as an organization are grateful to those that have fought and continue to play an active role in the changes that are to come for our state. It is my personal hope that we continue to do this in unity and for what could be rather than looking to the past at what has yet to be obtained.

SUBMITTED BY: Obioma U. Officer, M.A.
Executive Director

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