Advisory Council (AC), Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind and Late Deafened

January 9th, 2001, 10AM-3PM

AC Members Present: Dana Tranum, Natalie Rinker, Michael Bush, Chris Brawner, Allison Weippert, Becky Ebeling, Susanne Wilbur, Joe Thompson, Alan Miller, Tracy Branch, Richard Willis, Cathy Calhoun, Rebecca Ebeling, Jill Kaplan, Emmet Jones, Jane Chandler, Dominique McLaughlin, Jeffrey Christiansen.

AC Members Not Present Today: Arva Priola, Kathy Baker, Lisa Marshall, Jackie Prater, Mary Nunnally, Don Roe

Guests: Linda Miller, Robert Whytal.

Interpreters: Catherine Clough, Liz Leitch, Elaine Hernandez, Nancy Yesbeck

DMHMRSAS Staff Present: Randy Myers

I. Introductions:

A. Members of the AC introduced themselves.

II. Review of 11/00 Minutes:

A. There were no corrections made to the previous minutes. Minutes were accepted by the AC.

III. Reports:

A. Chairperson's Report (Natalie Rinker):

1. Mental Health Planning Council: Natalie reported on the issues discussed at the MH Planning Council. The Mental Health Council is struggling, in a sense, to define their role and how to handle issues that arise.

2. Communication at the Advisory Committee: Natalie raised the issue of meeting accessibility needs at the AC meetings. Randy has arranged for communication equipment to be set up for meetings the rest of the year. AC members should feel free to contact Randy to make suggestions on communication at the AC meetings or to request additional accessibility requirements.

3. AC By laws: Randy will email the AC members a copy of the newly revised bylaws. Please read the document when it arrives

and make any comments or suggestions to Natalie *before* the next meeting.

B. Secretary Report (Mike Bush):

1. The minutes were reviewed and accepted.
2. Mike handed out a flyer about the Deaf Forum on April 6th and 7th in Abingdon, VA.
3. Mike announced that he would not be at the next meeting and that he will find a substitute secretary.

C. Subcommittees

1. Children: See attached report.
2. Substance Abuse: See attached report.

D. State Coordinators Report (Randy Myers):

1. Restructuring Press Release: Randy talked about the press release he sent to AC members via email discussing upcoming changes to the way that DMHMRSAS provides services. This includes the possible closing and downsizing of institutions.

2. Regional Coordinators Quarterly Report: Randy is developing a report for RCs to fill out quarterly to begin to collect information about services in the state.

3. Human Rights Advocates: DMHMRSAS will hopefully be hiring five new Human Rights advocates. This was recommended in a recent study. It was also recommended that all of the HR advocates receive increased training on working with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deafblind.

4. Virginia Council on Assistive Technology (VCAT): Randy announced that he is now the DMHMRSAS representative on the VCAT.

5. Major Initiatives: Randy reported on his current, major initiatives. 1) Update the departmental instruction on Deaf and HoH 2) Define statewide emergency/crisis plans by region 3) Managing interpreter fund, 4) Gathering data to capture what is happening in the regions. 5) Setting up sub-committees on different issues (interpreting issues, hard of hearing issues, etc.)

E. Provider's Group: December 7th. Randy summarized the presentation of Dr. Stephen Wolf to the providers. Dr. Wolf provided a biopsychosocial training on sexual perpetrators. Dr. Wolf works for DMHMRSAS in Quality Assurance. See attached report. The next Provider's Meeting is on Thursday, February 8th in Charlottesville.

F. Mental Health Center for the Deaf at Western State Hospital: Dr. Willis reported that the MHCD is alive and well. MHCD had positive discharges over the holiday season. MHCD census is around 15 at the time being, but admissions are on the rise after the holidays. MHCD is studying the feasibility of changing one interpreter position into a Communication Specialist position.

G. Virginia Treatment Center for Children: Dr. Marshall is not here today. Several providers reported about successful transitions to and from VTCC, which was positive feedback for the VTCC program.

H. Pyschiatric Rehabilitative Services: Jill Kaplan announced that PRS recently hired Tasha Moran, a recent graduate of Gallaudet. Chris Brawner talked about the positive changes that are happening at PRS, including deaf service expansion.

I. VDDHH: Laurie Malhieros announced that there are proposed changes to the Regulations Governing Interpreter Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We are currently in the public comment period. AC members and others are welcome to send feedback. VDDHH is having a public hearing on the regulation changes on February 6th. Laurie welcomed feedback via email or by any other means.

J. DBVI: Sue Olsen introduced herself and publicly thanked Jill Kaplan, Becky Ebeling and Chris Brawner for their services to a DeafBlind individual in NOVA. She also announced again that the name of DVH recently changed to the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

IV. New Business:

A. Advisory Council Funding Priorities: Randy summarized the long range funding priorities that the AC has discussed for the past year, and he handed a list of funding priorities for discussion. Please see attached Funding Priorities that has been amended to include issues discussed at this meeting.

B. VAD Issue: Natalie will be contacting the Virginia Association of the Deaf local chapters to encourage the VAD to appoint a new representative to the AC. Susanne Wilbur discussed her willingness to become the VAD representative in the absence of another appointment.

Advisory Council Subcommittee Meeting, January 9, 2001
10 AM to 12:15 PM

The Substance Abuse and Child Services Subcommittees were combined for this meeting, at the State Coordinator's request, to summarize where we are in the process of identifying concerns and resources in each of these areas. The group identified resources in the state, and then identified action steps:

Substance Abuse (SA)

Resources
MHCD inpatient at WSH
VDDHH AA/SA 12-Step Interpreter funds
VDMHMRSAS Interpreter reimbursement funds
Psychiatric Rehab Services (PRS) SA Program in Fairfax

Action Steps

- Participate in upcoming Provider Meeting, Feb. 8 in Charlottesville to identify DMHMRSAS support and Regional Coordinator continuing education needs (All);
- Regional Coordinators pursue Inpatient Detox arrangements on regional basis (RC);
- Follow up with Augusta Medical Center possibility for inpatient treatment program (Rich Willis);
- Follow up with Deaf Reach federal grant being written up now (Randy Myers);
- Obtain funding for SA clinical positions in each of the regions to expand Regional Programs (Randy Myers);
- Pursue SA prevention with children and adolescents (Randy Myers, Hope Merrick)

Children and Adolescents (C & A)

Resources
Comprehensive Services Act FAPT Teams;
Out of state placements;
Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC);
Proposal for long-term residential program option at VSDB-S

Action Steps

- Pursue C & A clinical positions in each of the regions to expand Regional Programs (Randy Myers);
- Obtain more information about proposal to legislature on residential program at VSDB-S (Bob Whytal, DOE);

- Develop federal grant for service funding using exemplary delivery model (Randy Myers).

Deaf Services Advisory Council
Long-Range Funding Priorities
2001

1. Expand six Regional Programs adding child, substance abuse, and case management providers;

2. Increase funding allocation for Regional Coordinator positions from $50,000 to $75,000;

3. Develop Residential and Support Service (Assertive Case Management Teams) on a regional basis;

4. Identify and develop Statewide Substance Abuse Inpatient Treatment Unit and Regional Detox and Outpatient service availability;

5. Develop incentive plan to encourage the retention of signing staff at the MHCD;

6. Develop consumer involvement as Client Rights Advocates/Mediators;

7. Develop Telepsychiatry option for delivery of services – Provide Regional Coordinators with Applelink Connection.

Deaf Service Provider's Meeting
December 11, 2000, 10 AM to 3 PM
Charlottesville 4th St Station

Minutes of the Meeting

Randy's Comments

Randy made a few comments before he introduced our guest speaker.

First, the Comprehensive State Plan data collection will begin in the Spring and it will be important for us to report ALL people whom we're serving through CSBs and NOT able to meet their service needs. Include people who are being served at other CSBs, too. The standard for measuring whether we're able to meet a consumer's need(s) is whether we are delivering the service in a manner in which the consumer can maximally benefit, i.e., directly by providers who sign and/or in appropriate social milieu;

Second, Randy was contacted by Nancy Valley from Motorola. She will come to our next meeting and give a brief presentation with discussion – no more than an hour.

Nancy says: As Disability Access Coordinator for Motorola, I am aware that this wonderful Call to Protect program of which Motorola is a major sponsor, does not provide help for the Deaf and Speech impaired communities which experience abuse and violence more frequently than the generic population. It is my desire to explore the possible use of Motorola's two-way text messaging devices as a way to help the at-risk deaf and speech impaired victim population call for assistance. By understanding the unique requirements of this constituency and the present services available, I can better work to develop a solution and promote it to corporate management. Please look at Internet site: http://www.calltoprotect.org.

Third, each Regional Coordinator should get several people from the community to attend their local Human Rights Input Forum. Mike Bush sent around an email memo with all the information you'll need;

Fourth, Randy handed out the coming year Provider mtg schedule;

Fifth, Randy asked if everyone was aware of the Interpreters in commitment and certification procedures legislation which he handed out.

Presentation – Dr. Steven Wolf, Project Manager, DMHMRSAS

Randy introduced Dr. Steven C. Wolf, Project Manager from the Office of Health and Quality Care at DMHMRSAS who presented on sexual perpetrators from a biopsychosocial perspective. He has extensive experience working in this area. He said that, in terms of mental health system addressing this issue, the Commonwealth has a registry, a reporting mechanism, and a proposed sexually violent predators legislation, but is taking time to evaluate next steps. Why? Other states that have implemented such legislation have severely underestimated the number of cases that would surface and have been caught wholly unprepared. Right now, Dr. Wolf is designing a Department Instruction (for facilities) entitled "Risk of Harm to Self or Others" which incorporates this area of concern.

Mike Bush presented a case from the southwest on a client who was sexually abused.

Both of these presentations were extremely thought-provoking and informative as were questions and comments from participants. Thank you both!

Next Provider Meeting – February 8th, 2001
Presenter – Denise Clayborn, Substance Abuse Services;
Case Presenter – Emmet Jones