

CSAVR
**COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING,
LATE-DEAFENED, AND DEAFBLIND**

FALL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006
SAN FRANCISCO GRAND HYATT HOTEL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Beth Smith – KY, Chair; Tammy Adams- AL; Tim Beatty- CA; L'TANYA (TERRY) FISH - NC; Tom Jennings- NJ; Gary Neely – MS; Terry Smith- TX; Becky Sills- GA; Pat Tomlinson- NJ.

Partners: Doug Watson - U of ARK RRTC; Shelia Conlon-Mentkowski - NAD; David Esquith - RSA; Gerry Buckley - NTID; Angela Feltner – TX; Terry Fish, NC; Janel Grossinger- Gallaudet; Ron Jacobs – SDSU; Susan Lascek- HKNC; Darlene Rittkowski – CA; Graham Sisson – AL VR;

Chair Beth Smith welcomed the group and introductions were made of all present.

The Spring 2006 Committee Meeting minutes were approved.

The Committee Member and Partnership list was distributed to review and update.

The proposed 2007 goals for the Committee were reviewed and approved as drafted.

UPDATE ON FY07 COMMITTEE GOALS:

GOAL 1: MOUS- TIM BEATTY, GOAL POINT PERSON, REPORTING

Tim reported on the status of MOUs under development. The MOU with NAD was not signed by the previous NAD President Andy Lange and therefore has not been signed by the CSAVR President or posted on the CSAVR website. NAD has since made significant modifications to the original MOU. Therefore, Tim indicated the NAD MOU would need to be tabled and discussed at the next meeting. A copy of the modified MOU will be sent to members for input.

The approved RID MOU has not been posted on the CSAVR website. Also, the SHHH MOU was revised to reflect their name change to Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), but has not been changed on the CSAVR website. Tom Jennings will follow up to have these two MOUs correctly posted on the CSAVR website. Tom will also advise Terry Portis of the HLAA MOU.

The MOU with ALDA has been completed and sent to the CSAVR office. Beth will contact the CSAVR staff to locate the MOU and have it posted on the website.

As each MOU is posted, a RehabNet announcement will be issued encouraging state directors to utilization the Prototype to develop state-level MOUs with these

organizations. Tammy Adams reported Alabama VR developed a state MOU with the Alabama Association of the Deaf that had a significant impact in their state.

Beth recommended that we remove the State Higher Education Officers Association (SHEOA) MOU due to the announcement this morning by John Hager, OSERS, that a letter had been sent to the Office of Postsecondary Education to foster development of state MOUs.

A sub committee is working to determine criteria for with whom we should develop further MOUs, national in scope. The sub committee- Tim (Lead), Marlene, Sandy, Tom, and Pat were charged with developing these in time for approval at the Spring 2007 Meeting.

GOAL 2: STATES SURVEY- PATTY CONWAY, REPORTING

Sandy Duncan, original Point Person for this goal, sent the completed report done by the University of Arkansas RRTC analyzing the survey to committee members. Sandy will be retiring soon and was not able to attend the meeting.

Patty thanked Doug Watson for the RRTC's work on this report. Forty-two out of fifty states responded to the survey. The information in the report will be helpful to states to compare with their services and programs. A motion passed to send the completed report directly to all SCDs, state directors and to the SCD listserv. The information will also be used in the Model State Plan Update. Doug Watson will clarify some questions about the report with the RRTC and then send the corrected report to Beth to share with the committee members. Beth will mention this as an informational item to the CSAVR Executive Committee.

GOAL 3: MODEL STATE PLAN UPDATE- TAMMY ADAMS, GOAL POINT PERSON, REPORTING.

Tammy reported on the Model State Plan (MSP) update activity ongoing with the University of Arkansas RRTC. The MSP Sub Committee is chaired by Tom Jennings and will review the first draft at the meeting this Wednesday. Timelines and deadlines for completion of the document will be decided and hopefully a draft will be completed in time for committee approval at the 2007 Spring Meeting. Groups and Organizations will be invited to review the draft document for input. The completed MSP will be available online.

GOAL 4: HARD OF HEARING/ LATE DEAFENED TRAINING MATERIALS- PAT TOMLINSON & PATTY CONWAY, GOAL POINT PERSONS, REPORTING.

Pat suggested that the wording of this goal needed clarification, as the intent was never to assess existing training materials, but to identify available training materials and resources and pursue updating some of these resources.

Pat reported on existing training courses including National University and HLAA offerings. National University has discontinued the IHHD program and availability of these courses is uncertain. The HLAA program has been used some by TX and KY VR staff. The University of Arkansas RRTC grant proposal to update the previous VR

materials on serving individuals who are hard of hearing and late deafened was not funded. The PEPNet/ RRTC initiative to develop a “Best Practices Handbook for Enhancing Services to Hard of Hearing College Students” has been completed and the document will be available soon, but the focus is postsecondary and it has limited VR information. Therefore all current resources to improve and update these training materials have been exhausted. With this information, Pat concluded that work on this goal has been completed.

Patty Conway, KY, and Terry Smith, TX, discussed in-state initiatives to continue training of their staff in this area. KY is considering development of their own on-line training and TX continues to use local resources to provide on-site training.

A motion passed to add a new goal to identify five top priority training areas related to hard of hearing/late deafened. It was suggested that core competency training needed to serve individuals who are hard of hearing and late deafened be prioritized around these identified areas. Terry suggested that individual states might develop some of these components and share these materials.

GOAL 5: VRS/ VRI WHITE PAPER- BECKY SILLS, POINT PERSON, REPORTING.

Becky has responded to requests for this information. The SCD Listserv has posted some questions on video relay interpreting and responses indicate states have concerns and confusion about this information.

Becky has developed a survey to go to the states to document and measure the use and effectiveness of this technology in state VR agencies. Committee members provided their input to the survey and Tim Beatty shared that CA did a study about cost effectiveness that will be provided to Becky. A motion passed to share the survey with CSAVR Executive Committee and their Research Committee as this goal has already been approved.

Becky shared a copy of the paper that had been revised by Eric Dibner.

The original paper will stay on the CSAVR website after being updated. Becky will remove the provider section of the paper due to difficulty in keeping that information current. The website for the provider listing is included in the paper.

GOAL 6: CRC EXAM ACCOMMODATION – BECKY SILLS, POINT PERSON, REPORTING.

Becky discussed problems of high stakes testing of deaf professionals related to problems for deaf VR Counselors taking the CRC exam. Becky recommended a book, “Assessing Deaf Adults: Critical Issues in Testing and Evaluation”, by Judith L. Morent and David S. Martin, Editors, Gallaudet Univ. Press, 2005.

Becky reported that the CRCC recently established a committee to explore whether their test is discriminatory. Debra Brunner, GA Perimeter College, is on that Committee, but a date has not been set for the first meeting.

Tom Jennings suggested that the CSAVR Human Resource Committee, Charlene Dwyer and Brian Sigman – Co-Chairs, need to be aware of this concern and the CRCC Committee.

New Business

Tim discussed the development of a draft motion to present to the CSAVR Executive Committee to request a qualified professional in the area of deafness at RSA and to provide funding for the continuance of the National SCD conference.

Beth reported that information presented this morning from Jennifer Sheehy, RSA, indicated funding has been designated for the next SCD conference.

Terry Smith suggested that deafness expertise is needed in all of the redesigned units of RSA to ensure appropriate assistance to state agencies.

David Esquith, RSA, suggested a CSAVR/RSA workgroup to address these issues.

A motion will be presented to the CSAVR Executive Committee to request that RSA re-establish a designated professional skilled and qualified in deafness rehabilitation to oversee and assist states in this area and also ensure similar staff are available in each unit of RSA. This motion also includes the request from CSAVR to RSA to establish a work group to address some of the critical issues identified previously by the Committee.

- RSA cuts in Deaf/ DeafBlind interpreter training programs in a climate of increasing need and increasing shortages.
- RSA cuts in Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Masters Degree programs in a time of increasing difficulty recruiting counselors who meet state CSPD requirements AND who have deafness/HH/LD/DB expertise.
- Lack of financial support for Deaf/ Hard of Hearing training program accommodations- i.e. DOE interpreters and CART no longer available for regional training conferences.
- Dismantling of RSA Branch Office for Deafness and Communication Disorders along with no Regional Office specialists in hearing impairment, leaves no support for VR programs and staff who serve consumers with hearing loss (state, regionally, or nationally).
- Failure of NIDRR to re-compete a Research and Training Center to address employment needs of the full range of hearing loss (Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf/blind). The momentum of 30 plus years will stagnate and be lost.

SPRING MEETING 2007 WILL BE AT THE BETHESDA HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, APRIL 22-25, 2007. The Committee meetings will be held Monday afternoon, April 23. Full conference and one-day registrations will be available.

Announcements

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS RRTC UPDATE:

DOUG WATSON, DIRECTOR described current projects-

- Disability Rehabilitation Research Project on Low Functioning Deaf. Three-year project funded by NIDRR will include six interrelated projects with several states to improve rehabilitation outcomes with this population.
- CSAVR State Survey analysis previously addressed in the minutes.
- RT-31/ PEPNet Hard of Hearing Handbook previously discussed in these minutes.
- Model State Plan Initiative also previously addressed in the minutes.
- Initiative to proposed again for Development of New Training Resource targeting Rehabilitation of Individuals who are Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened. Feedback from review panel will be incorporated into new proposal for funding.