

**Advisory Committee to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and Disabled
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2012**

Members Present: Lauren Casey, Frank Smith, Frank Latham and Julie Doerrmann

DAS Representatives Present: Adam Bucon

Members Absent: Jason Weiland, Nancy Yarosh, Carol Uckar and Kevin Sullivan

Interpreters: Monica Ayrer and Kathy Ferejohn

CART Reporter: Jeanette Voight

Chairperson's Report -

Jason Weiland was absent from today's meeting due to his attendance at the GCADA Conference. A report was not submitted from Jason but he did report that the priority for the Committee is to continue to work on increasing membership. Jason also reported that his Division, DDHH, is still in the process of being relocated to Quakerbridge Road in Hamilton.

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Report/Adam Bucon

Adam reported that most of DMHAS has re-located to 222 South Warren Street but that the Fiscal, IT and Research Unit still remains at the South Stockton Street and East State Street location. Adam briefly discussed the presentation on the Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization (MBHO) that Raquel Mazon Jeffers provided at the last Committee meeting. He also discussed the on-going collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) which includes the development of a manual and policies that would enable DVRS counselors to work more efficiently with individuals who have substance use disorders. Adam furthermore mentioned that Devin Fox, a colleague at DMHAS who coordinates the Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) will most likely attend the December meeting.

Subcommittee Update/ Julie Doerrmann-

Julie reported that the Accessibility Subcommittee has not met in the most recent months. Julie requested to reconvene the subcommittee after the committee attains new members. She requested more participation since there a lot of issues that the subcommittee can begin to work on. Lauren recommended that the subcommittee meet directly following the Advisory Committee meeting. Julie, as well as other committee members, agreed this would be a good time to meet especially since the Disability Coalition, which previously met directly following this meeting, no longer meets.

Julie provided an update on deaf and hard-of-hearing services currently being provided through a DMHAS contract at the Center for Family Services (CFS). Julie briefly discussed the new contract CFS received to open a new recovery center at CFS. She

admitted that it will be a similar model to Eva's Village, which operates one in the Northern Region.

Old Business:

New Membership Application-

Adam reported there are currently three (3) positions open on the Committee, two positions for an individual identified as being Deaf, hard of hearing or having a disability and one other for a member of the public who has an interest in substance use disorders and the population of individuals identified as being Deaf, hard of hearing or having a disability. Adam indicated the goal is to attempt to get the new membership application out to the public as soon as possible and possibly have new representatives attend the next meeting. The Committee further discussed and agreed they would like to see an interview as part of the new membership process, if possible. The Committee recommended that the application should be advertised on the Department of Human Services' Division websites as well as the Monthly Communicator and other publications that go out to the deaf, hard of hearing and disabled community. Adam reported that he will forward the membership application to committee members as soon as posted on the DHS website and will request that members advertise.

Advertising for Advisory Committee and Services Available for Deaf, HOH and Disabled Populations-

The Committee continues to agree that a goal for both the Committee and for DMHAS is to increase the amount of quality services for individuals who are Deaf, hard of hearing and disabled. Julie reported she would be interested in having two of her staff members interviewed for a story and the services her agency provides in the Monthly Communicator.

Member Roundtable-

Lauren reported that her pastor at the Trinity United Methodist Church was interested in coordinating an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at his church for individuals who are Deaf and/or hard of hearing. Adam reported that he called Reverend Bryan Joyce and spoke to him briefly about this. Reverend Joyce stated he would call back when he had more time to discuss.

Meeting Adjourned