

**Advisory Committee to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and Disabled
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2013**

Members Present: Jason Weiland, Frank Latham, Kevin Sullivan, Nancy Yarosh, Lauren Casey, Julie Doerrmann and Renee Davidson

DAS Representatives Present: Adam Bucon

Members Absent: Carol Uckar

Interpreters: Monica Ayrer and Kathy Ferejohn

CART Reporter: Jeanette Voight

Guests: Brenda Tift

Chairperson's Report -

Jason Weiland reported that the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) has not moved to their new office space in Hamilton due to a couple of technical issues that still are being addressed.

DDHH recently partnered with Northeastern University's Regional Interpretation Education Center to assist NJ in providing self-advocacy training and teaching individuals who are deaf about resources/services that are available. The self-advocacy trainings will be held on April 2nd and 3rd. Jason will provide the committee with a link for this information.

Jason reported that DDHH recently hired Catherine Purrazzella as a Service Coordinator and her role is to ensure that consumers are getting access to all services in their communities.

Jason discussed that the Department of Treasury released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for foreign language and American Sign Language (ASL) services that would have one agency servicing the whole State for any request for these types of services. Most recently the Department of Treasury temporarily suspended the RFP. Jason is hopeful to have more information on this topic at the next meeting in June.

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Report/Adam Bucon

Adam discussed the agenda from the last meeting, specifically related to the guest speaker, Devin Fox, who provided information on the DMHAS Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). Adam reiterated to the group that the CAC meets on the third Thursday of every month and recommended a committee member or members attend if possible.

Adam reported that DMHAS continues its work toward implementing an ASO/MBHO which would move most current treatment services to a fee-for-service structure. DMHAS is currently working on an RFP for the ASO/MBHO.

DMHAS continues to work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) in efforts to strengthen the relationship between the two divisions to improve training needs for DVRS counselors as it relates to servicing individuals who may have a substance use disorder.

Accessibility Subcommittee Update/ Julie Doerrmann-

Adam reported that Julie is the current Chair for the Subcommittee but has not met recently. Adam proposed the Subcommittee reconvene following the next Advisory Committee in June and that members who volunteer discuss goals and develop an action plan or timeline to discuss at the subsequent Advisory Committee meeting which is scheduled to be held in September.

DMHAS Program Update/ Adam Bucon, Julie Doerrmann and Brenda Tift-

Adam reported there are currently three programs that receive funding from the \$350K that is legislatively set-aside to service individuals who have a substance use disorder and are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled. Those three agencies are the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), Center for Family Services (CFS) and Advancing Opportunities.

Adam provided information sent to him from Lida Pascual from the UMDNJ Crossings Program. UMDNJ is currently servicing 25 clients through their disability and substance abuse treatment contract (current contract stipulates they must serve 20). The clients they are servicing are reported to have a wide range of physical and developmental disabilities. Since their agency is co-occurring capable, they are treating several clients who have both a substance use disorder as well as a co-occurring mental health disorder. Their main referral source for treatment is the legal system and expresses that a major obstacle has been in attaining transportation services for their clients.

Brenda Tift provided an update on the Advancing Opportunities contract. Her agency provides education and cross-training to substance abuse treatment agencies, disability providers, substance abuse treatment clients and disability consumers. She reported providing three training presentations this contract year for substance abuse treatment providers and one for a consumer group. Brenda reported that she will provide Adam with some information advertising the service that she provides. Adam will send this information out to his providers.

Julie Doerrmann provided an update of the current contract services of CFS. Her agency currently provides individual and group outpatient treatment services in both Newark and Voorhees and offers transportation services for individuals who have difficulty in getting to their facilities. They also offer mobile counseling services as well as communication accessibility services which are offered in the forms of sign language interpreters as well as Communication Accessibility Real-Time Translation (CART). Julie reported that

there has been a high demand for communication accessibility in the community and are in danger of running out of funding for the current contract year.

Member Roundtable-

Julie reported that the Deaf Fest has been scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2013 in East Brunswick. The Deaf Fest provides resources on deaf resources available in statewide communities.

Jason reported that the ASL Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Union County College at the Cranford Campus. This festival has been running for 29 years and is free and everything at this event is provided in American Sign Language.

Jason reported that the Family Learning Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Bergen Community College in Paramus. This conference is held every two years and is primarily for parents who have deaf or hard of hearing children.

Meeting Adjourned