Monday, January 11, 2016

Present: Heather Horton, Meghan Baxter, Cheryl Piveronous, Shaille Cohen, Joanne Knauer, Anna Carey and Russell Wolff

General Business – reviewed attendance for today’s meeting.

New members introduced: Meghan Baxter is a BSW student at the University of Albany who is interested in services for the Deaf. Shaille Cohen is a sign language interpreter who is staying for part of the meeting.

1)Discussed inviting more professionals to learn about who we are and how we may be helpful:

Steve Lovely – past president of ESED

Susan Malinowski – St. Peters Health Partners, Communication and Language Access Specialist/Human Resources

2) Discussed ways to handle the requests via phone and e-mail that Heather has been receiving.

Russell Wolff recommended setting up a “list serve” to have a working ongoing way of handling requests from professionals and possible Deaf with Mental Health issues. Also discussed sending out general e-mails and requesting assistance.

3) Discussed future plans to contact hospitals and agencies in order to spread information regarding the Deaf Mental Health Consortium:

Pivy has made several attempts to reach out to ComPeer Albany requesting training as a Peer Counselor.To date, she has not received a response. She will continue making attempts to receive training.

Heather will contact CDPC requesting to come for a Brown Bag lunch or meeting to discuss effective ways to provide services to Deaf patients. Pivy would like to attend also.

Russell will contact Rosemary Lamb at the NYS Justice for People with Disabilities and invite her to come to a meeting.

Heather will reach out to Karen Garofallou from the Center for Independence to invite her to the next meeting.

Russ also has reached out to Brenda Souky at Access VR but she is unable to attend meetings on Mondays due to a conflict.

4) Review of the Website and also discussed services listed and the need for increased information added to the “handout” section. Russell has some articles on use of a sign language interpreter and how professionals can work more effectively with Deaf individuals to add to the Website.

5) Discussion re: possible methods of securing an accurate number of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in the Capital District seeking mental health services. Can we survey interpreters? Or ask Susan for an estimate of the number of patients at the hospital? Or ask all the local hospital Emergency Rooms how many Deaf patients they see in one year? Confidentiality was briefly discussed as a possible barrier to obtaining this kind of information.

Tasks for our next meeting:

1. Joanne and Meghan will work together on developing a template for a brochure
2. Heather will be e-mailing all of the members when she receives requests via e-mail or phone to assist with resources and information
3. Joanne and Pivy and Russ needed to forward a short biography to Anna to be added to the Webiste and Joanne will also forward a photo.
4. Ben is also working on a list of agencies and individuals to contact.

Next meeting is Monday, March 21st at 4:30 .

Minutes submitted by:

Joanne Knauer