

RICDHH Healthcare Committee

September 30, 2010

Members Attending: *Tina Thompson (co-chair), Steve Florio, Pamela Zellner, and Deb Raiche*

Member(s) not Attending: *Jim Simon (co-chair) and Christine Harkins*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreter(s): Meribeth Anderson

CART service: Tracy Uraka

Location: *Conference Room B at the Department of Administration building (One Capitol Hill) in Providence, RI*

Tina Thompson, co-chair, began the meeting at 9:40am. All members agreed that they would review all workgroups' progresses to date.

General Comments

Tina reported that Steve Florio and Tina had a great turnout at the Roger William Medical Center on September 28th where they gave educational presentation on Deaf and Hard of Hearing issues in Medical settings. It was very well received. They hope the training continues on a regular basis going forward. They had many questions from the audience and they answered them. Many of them learned a lot from this presentation and a few of them clearly have a long way to learn about the deaf and hard of hearing issues. Tina thought and Steve agreed that it was well-worth it.

Consumer Education Workgroup

Tina reported that Consumer Education workgroup had made some progresses. Deb Raiche handed out the workgroup' rough draft of survey that includes the list of topics and questions. She asked the members to review and share feedback with her. The Consumer Education workgroup hoped to roll out the survey sometime in the wintertime. After that, we would review all responses and determine which topic that we will provide.

Legislative & Policy Workgroup

Steve updated with the members about the Legislative & Policy workgroup and handed out the summary of its latest progress. Steve met with Christine Harkins on September 15th at Bridgemark Office in Warwick. We agreed to create two legislative bills, one is to require insurance companies to cover communication access services for all appointments except hospitals and two is to recognize deaf and hard of hearing patients, families, and power of attorney's rights known as Healthcare Bill of Rights for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patients and Families. He said he would meet with Christine Harkins again to develop the language of the bill.

Tina expressed concerns that the second bill, Healthcare Bill of Rights, would cause tensions between the RICDHH and Hospitals especially Hospital Association of Rhode Island. Steve explained that it would not

create an issue as long as they should believe and support the rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients. Steve clarified that this bill is not about enforcing hospitals to do something. This is about to recognize the rights of deaf and hard of hearing patients in obtaining high quality of healthcare services. Tina friendly suggested that the workgroup would look into this issue and to figure out what approach they should take without a risk to create an issue in the view of Hospitals or Hospital Association of Rhode Island.

Resource Manual Workgroup

Pam Zellner reported that Steve who was in her place when she was absent that day met with Jim Simon on September 3rd. Steve introduced all materials that the RICDHH office currently has related to healthcare so Jim became familiar with them before the workgroup can decide what to do next with the resource manual. They did not want to re-invent the wheel by creating all materials all over. They were thinking of creating a couple or three different materials for different groups such as nurses/doctors, administrators for service providers, and people who have direct contact with deaf and hard of hearing patients/clients frequently.

We agreed that Pam would coordinate the next meeting date through e-mails.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.