

CDHH Interpreter Referral Task Force

Meeting Date: 3/11/11

Present: Steve Florio, Carol Fay, Tina Thompson, Paul Barnaby, Jodi Merryman

Interpreter: Mary Ellen Breen

Meeting began at 2pm.

1. Review of meeting minutes from February 15, 2011. Minutes approved by Tina, Paul, Jodi and Karen. Carol and Steve abstained from voting as they were not present for the previous meeting. The only recommendation made was to correct the spelling of Mary Ellen Breen's last name from the February minutes.
2. Carol Fay discussed the Interpreters Training grant from Northeastern University. RIRID is helping to recruit individuals to bring young people into the field. Carol Fay has been trained to make presentations to groups to help increase exposure and knowledge of the ASL interpreting occupation.
3. Discussion took place as to local colleges and high schools allowing ASL classes in lieu of a foreign language class in order to increase exposure of ASL to high school and possibly middle school students.
4. Discussion took place regarding the fact that research needs to be completed to identify economic and labor market information to College and or State leaders to justify adding a program of ASL studies to a College curriculum.
5. There was a discussion about possibly writing a White paper to identify the issues and present to the RI Dept of Education.
6. Karen to provide updated labor market research to discuss with task force at next meeting.
7. Steve and Tina have presented information to the RI Hospital Association in an effort to educate them about the necessity of utilizing ASL interpreters.
8. Carol Fay is going to invite Partners Interpreting to come to the next task force meeting to discuss how they provide services. Carol indicated that they have a more effective way of working with interpreters and customers.
9. Discussed Prioritizing Ideas that were discussed during today's meeting:
 - Ambassador program to increase awareness of interpreters as a profession and career. Look into RI Interpreters getting CEU's to work as an ambassador.
 - Introduce ASL into High Schools for Foreign Language credit.
 - Increase Public Awareness for State Agencies, Hospitals, etc.
 - Identify and encourage companies, hospitals, etc, to utilize blocks of Interpreter time. Will need to demonstrate cost effectiveness.
 - Research and present information regarding economic need for Interpreters and training programs for Interpreters.
10. Paul explained how the Interpreter referral system works through CDHH. There was some discussion about possibly looking at a software program which would help facilitate the coordination of interpreters. Also there was discussion that if Paul had more time he could provide educational training about Deaf Services, Interpreters, Sensitivity training, etc.

Page 2

11. The next meeting was scheduled for 4/8/11.
12. Paul and Steve will brain storm names for this task force.

Meeting ended at 4:05pm.