

ACE-INFORMATION SHARING WORK GROUP

WORK PLAN

Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 8:30-10:00 am

CCDHH—Timothy Chevalier, Independence Center of Colorado Springs—Matthew Ruggles, MHCD—Mary Sterrit, and Goodwill Industries of Denver—Cindy Wright meet at MHCD with Matthew on VP.

1. Membership Criteria: Results of this discussion are to be brought back to the September summit.
 - Discuss 3-4 eligibility criteria and definitions on the membership application for new agencies to join the summits.
 - i. Professionally paid staff that provide,
 - ii. Technical assistance to deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind individuals through,
 - iii. Direct communication.
 - Evaluate/edit the definitions: 1) *technical assistance* in this context means: promulgating awareness and encouraging changes in attitudes, policies and practices for initiating, implementing, and sustaining capacity for equitable access to communication; * 2) *direct communication* in this context means; paid professional staff are available to provide direct communication with two-way, free-flowing sharing of thoughts, feelings, and ideas without an intermediary (whenever feasible) in the language/s preferred by consumers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.
 - Evaluate the format for the one page questionnaire which will be screened by one representative from each of the three (3) work groups; One-on-One Advocacy, Information Sharing, and Equal Access to the Justice System (EAJS).
 - Discuss how we will handle the application, and acceptance/denial process of organizations that have expressed an interest or have been invited to join ACE:
 - iv. Mile High Independent Living,
 - v. CAD was invited,
 - vi. CDE has capacity issues.
 - Preparation for the Summit—Report on Information Sharing Workgroup Action Plan and the following:
 - vii. Select which logos to present during the ACE summit,
 - viii. Finalize the membership application form to present at the ACE summit,
 - ix. Develop an invitation letter and acceptance/denial letter to organizations who have completed the membership screening to become members of ACE or not.
2. New ACE website within CCDHH website – coming soon! Spark sent a draft and requested documents to Joyce; she is working on development of the new website. The Information Sharing workgroup will need to start discussing website content.

* From Rebecca Kahn on July 23, 2015: we have worked to define what we mean by 1-1 advocacy services (see 1 pager I sent you in last email), but the group has not defined broader TA in more detail. However, in a very early Summit, the group did identify several possible ACE goals associated with TA, and from that list narrowed down to the 3 focus areas of info sharing, 1-1 advocacy, and justice system. That goal list was:

1. **One on one advocacy**
2. **Information sharing for coordination of services**
3. Access to attorneys and complaint process information
4. Develop specialized services for individuals with a co-occurring disability
5. Coordination of training

6. **Equal access for deaf or hard of hearing individuals in the justice system**

The group also identified some specific GAPS in services *to dhh individuals*:

1. Follow-up with individuals who have received information
2. Advocacy for victims of crimes
3. Specialist/services for deaf and developmental disabilities
4. Access to lawyers
5. Training in self-advocacy
6. More technology assistance

The group also identified these gaps in *services to organizations* working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals:

1. Coordination/information sharing to keep up with changing services
2. Overlap/clarity of who provides which trainings to which audiences
3. Collaborate with training advocacy and ADA requirements

It was these sets of gaps that helped the group narrow down to ACE's 3 focus areas. Not sure this helps you though, with defining what we mean by TA!