



# Project Evaluation

Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2010

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## Attendees

Anita Coen, Jewlya Lynn, Ami Garry, Mary Sterritt, Mya Drexler (remote), Angie Lawson, Anne-Marie Baer

## MEETING NOTES

### Agenda Item: Draft Key Informant Report

Background: Draft Report submitted for review; more ethnically diverse respondents needed

Decisions:

- **Action Item-** Anne Marie will outreach to diverse deaf colleagues to expand the Key Informants.
- **Action Item-** Plan to present the Key Informant results in August
- **Action Item-** Anita will write an Executive Summary. Anita, Jewlya, and Angie will work on a list of key issues that will be important to highlight in the Training and Early Adopter Interviews:

### Agenda Item: Quarterly Report

Background: Quarterly report for the project will be available on the CSI/Daylight website

Decisions:

- **Action Item-** Mary will send the Quarterly report to the Evaluation Work Group

### Agenda Item: Logistics

Decisions:

- **Action Item-** Request from Mya to participate by videophone in the Work Group meetings. Mary will talk to IT people at MHCD to set that up. Her videophone number is:.

### Agenda Item: Hands and Voices

Background: Parents would like a choice (online survey, interview, focus group) for providing input about mental health and substance abuse providers' training and TA needs

Decisions:

- **Action Item-** Anita will work with Janet (and other H & A members) to move the data collection forward.

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**Notes:****Agenda Item: Draft Key Informant Report**

**First draft of Key Informant report** has been distributed with results of over 20 interviews. We are continuing to collect comments from Daylight CoreTeam. There are a few remaining interviews to be conducted before the report can be finalized. Challenge to access ethnically diverse deaf key informants. Some discussion on strategies for accessing this population, including some offers from Evaluation Work Group members to outreach.

Decisions:

- **Action Item-** Anne Marie will outreach to diverse deaf colleagues to expand the Key Informants.
- **Action Item-** Plan to present the Key Informant results in August
- **Action Item-** Anita will write an Executive Summary. Anita, Jewlya, and Angie will work on a list of key issues that will be important to highlight in the Training and Early Adopter Interviews:

**Agenda Item: Consumer and Family Interviews**

Background: Consumer and family interviews are underway.

- Interview training went really well. The forms and materials were adapted after the training to improve them (an example of Community-Based Participatory Evaluation in action!). By having members of the community learn to do the interviewing process, it is building capacity in the deaf community (another example of CBPE). Four interviewers with consumers and family members, with referrals coming in from Key Informants. Anita will be interviewing the hearing parents. Anne-Marie has background communicating with consumers who have limited ASL. Commitment to consumers and families that they will be interviewed through the communication modality they prefer.
- Hoping to do 15 interviews. Stipend for participation is \$20.
- Pilot interview happened earlier this week. Anne-Marie conducted an interview with a adult woman who is deaf. Individual was very responsive. They met in person in a library. The interview was videotaped for note taking purposes. The interview process went very smoothly. Anne-Marie used the questions more as a mental guide than a specific question by question format, but covered all the information through an informal dialogue. It took about an hour and a half. She had the participant fill out the demographic information form on her own, during which Anne-Marie set up the video camera. Technical difficulties with the battery of the video camera. Documented her memory of the second section. Total process, including travel, took about 4 hours.
  - Demographic questions she responded to – questions about identification with deafness and community were of interest – rich information.
  - Suggestion of having more paper in the packet for long answers to be recorded.
  - The services question need to be better defined (mental health and other?).
- Discussion about how the evaluation’s consumer interviewing process is also helping to build capacity for the Daylight Project, learning to engage consumers through an appropriate process with training and consent forms.

- Discussion on when Certified Deaf Interpreters are useful, largely in medical and court situations. The referral form does include gestural/home sign, so that the interviewer can be matched to the level of language proficiency. If a CDI is needed, it will be arranged. MHCD has a CDI available if needed.
- There may be others in the community who want to be interviewers. We will see how many referrals come and whether more interviewers are needed. It is also hoped that as more interviewers are needed that Anne Marie or Ami will be able to do the training. Another way to build evaluation capacity in the community.

### **Agenda Item: Hands & Voices Staff and Board Meeting**

Background: Hands & Voices is a parent organization that educates and advocates for parents of deaf children. Also do some policy advocacy to improve services for deaf children's needs. National organization, founded here in Colorado.

- Anita was invited to their meeting by the Executive Director, Janet DeGeorges. Participating in the meeting gave her an opportunity to discuss with the Hands & Voices Board the issue of mental health not being discussed in advocacy meetings or more generally in the deaf/hh community. She also provided background information. They said they had not talked about it in meetings before, and discussed stigma and fear of having to take on another problem. When parents introduced themselves, some identified their children as deaf, some identified their children as hard of hearing and some used neither, instead referring to their children as having Cochlear implants. Sense that the group wasn't judging each other over the different communication strategies they were utilizing with their children.
- Suggestion that there should be a choice for how family members provide input on provider needs (not just surveys, not just interviews, but a mix). Offer that Hands & Voices could put a link to a survey on their website. Agreement by the group that the web-based survey would make sense. The survey could follow the flow of the interview, but with the basic questions, not all the detailed questions. Suggestions of having educational materials online with the survey. Janet is open to this.
- Issue that professionals might dismiss mental health problems as being attributed to the deafness, more of a behavioral issue, less of a mental health issue.
- Discussion on how mental health services seems like a better fit for Hands & Voices than they are realizing.
- Deaf Academic Forum had a discussion about the word intervention and the connotation (perceived as very negative by families). Suggestion of "access" instead of intervene.
- Request to provide feedback to the online survey as its developed.