

Steps to Recovery



Fairview University Medical Center

A publication of the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals

Winter 2003

39th International Alcoholics Anonymous Women's Conference

February 13-16, 2003

Seattle, Washington

Conference information:

www.lwc2003.org

Accessibility Information:

ASL Interpreters will be provided for the entire conference. If you need more information, want a signing roommate, or want an interpreter for tours, contact Laurel at lwalden@cmc.net or Jackie at (360) 993-2320 TTY.

\$566,715 Grant Awarded for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Chemical Dependency Program

Minnesota Department of Human Services, Chemical Dependency Division, has granted more than \$500,000 over three years to continue Fairview's chemical dependency program for deaf and hard of hearing. The Program welcomed this generous grant.

The grant will improve access for patient participation in Fairview treatment and recovery maintenance through a variety of ways. The money will fund professionals fluent in American Sign Language (ASL), sign language interpreters, modifications to written English materials, assistive listening devices, captioning and other needed services. Communication and grief assessment also will be conducted.

Research shows many clients who have completed treatment at the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals had been in a violent relationship and /or sexually abused.

The Program materials will emphasize domestic abuse and HIV/AIDS information which are key issues for many clients. Current research studies and community assessments show that people who are deaf or hard of hearing are more frequently subject to domestic violence.

The grant will help establish employment stability and Twelve-Step group connection programs both during treatment and after clients return home. Research shows that successful outcomes depend on stable employment for recovering patients.

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals is located at Fairview-University Medical Center.

Grant prepared by Susan Knollenberg, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Program Receives Funding
- 2 Prevention Program Update
Resource Center Update
- 3 Youth Conference A Success!
- 4 Program Staff Update

Prevention Program Update

What a busy year for the Prevention Program! Tracy gave numerous presentations to schools and organizations this past spring.

During the summer, Tracy and Lynn gave a workshop at the NAD Conference in Washington DC about chemical dependency treatment and prevention for deaf and hard of hearing people. Tracy stayed in DC and attended Deaf Way II and gave a similar workshop. After returning from Washington DC, she attended Camp ASL in northern Minnesota, a week-long camp for families with deaf and hard of hearing children. What a very rewarding week – working with deaf and hard of hearing children and interacting with the parents.

On September 28, Tracy participated in the Aware Fair in St. Paul, setting up a booth for the Program. Over 2,500 people were in attendance at the Aware Fair! People came to the booth and asked for information ... or just to chat! In October, Tracy gave a presentation at the Deaf Women's Workshop with Kathy Schumacher about date rape drugs.

The Youth Conference 2002: Know Yourself and Your Community was a booming success!! It was held on October 30, and 70 students were in attendance to the conference. Please see the article "Youth Conference A Success" for more details.

The program regrets to inform the Deaf and hard of hearing community in Minnesota that the Prevention Program will close on December 31, 2002. The Program was not able to receive further funding to continue the Prevention Program. However, Program staff are seeking funding for the Prevention Program. In the future, if funding does become available, the Prevention Program will reopen.

Tracy will still be with us – she will change her status from Prevention Education Specialist to on-call counselor.

Resource Center Update

We presented our workshop "Providing Substance Abuse Services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons" at St. Joseph's Hospital in St Paul, Minneapolis Community and Technical College as well as a site in Duluth for the MARRCH organization. This training was designed to help Alcohol and Drug counselors meet their ongoing educational requirements. The Center continues to handle requests from Deaf and hard of hearing people in Minnesota that request access to Twelve Step meetings throughout the state. Unfortunately this service will cease January 1, 2003 as the Program will not receive funds to continue the Resource Center.

State Fund for Twelve Step Meetings

The state fund that has been used to pay for interpreting services at twelve-step meetings is over as of November 30, 2002. The money was allocated from July 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. Due to the high demand the money was gone by November 30, 2002.

Our program, along with other community organizations, is attempting to secure funding to continue providing interpreters for twelve-step meetings.

If you would like to encourage Minnesota to allocate funding for interpreted twelve-step meetings feel free to contact Governor Tim Pawlenty at 651-296-3391 V, 651-296-0075 V or 1-800-657-3598 TTY.



Youth Conference 2002 A Success!!

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals hosted a Youth Conference with the support of a prevention grant from the Minnesota Chemical Health Division. Youth Conference 2002: Know Yourself and Your Community was held on October 30, 2002 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at District 287 in Plymouth, Minnesota. The purpose of the conference was to invite Deaf and hard of hearing high school students in Minnesota to participate in the conference and attend workshops and hands-on activities.

Participants included students from Highland Park Senior High School, St. Louis Park High School, Humboldt High School, Hosterman Education Center, Woodbury High School, and Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, totaling 70 students.

The theme, "Know Yourself and Your Community" reflects on what the students learned during the conference. Dr. Frank Turk of Communication Service for the Deaf – South Dakota was the keynote speaker at the conference. Students participated in discussions with Dr. Turk about leadership. Working hard, learning from failure, pressure vs. stress, struggling and asking questions were among the issues Dr. Turk addressed in his presentation.

One workshop consisted of self-analysis and a discussion on identity. Students worked together on hands-on activities, learned about their identities and how to perceive people. Another workshop was about teambuilding skills. Working in groups, students worked together in teams and competed against each other on which team could build the highest "building" using paper. Students had an opportunity to participate in a Quiz Bowl and win prizes. Sean Virnig was the speaker for the closing activities and wrapped up Dr. Turk's presentation about leadership.

Agencies, organizations and businesses were invited to set up booths in the Exhibit Hall at the conference. This enabled students to become aware of what is available in their communities by visiting different exhibitors and complete a questionnaire.

All workshops and activities were accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing people. Several interpreters were at the conference and at all workshops and presentations. CART (Captioning Real-Time) services were provided as well, where a person types on a special machine, hooked up to a computer and a LCD projector so people can read the words on the screen.

There were many positive comments about the conference; especially about the accessibility. Students who were non-signers were able to hear the voice interpreters or rely on reading the words on the screen provided by the CART services. Comments from the students included:

"It was fun because I met some new people."
"There are many organizations that can help."
"I learned that people shouldn't judge each other based on race, religion, sex, etc."
"Wonderful!"

Program Staff Update

Tracy Koster will be changing her status from Prevention Education Specialist to On-Call Counselor.

Arlene Gunderson will be changing her status from Resource Center Coordinator to the Program Administrative Assistant.

We say goodbye and lots of luck to Jerry Pouliot, Mary Jo Schwie, and Joe Ascheman. Thanks for all your hard work with us!

We welcome new staff Jaime Haehn, Counselor, Jennifer Strupeck, Interpreter, Mary Weber, Interpreter, Nathan Ellis, Drug Unit Assistant and Chris Paxton, Drug Unit Assistant.

CONTACT OUR PROGRAM!!

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