HEALTH SCIENCES INFORMATION HUB TASK FORCE
June 9, 2000
VA Hospital Library
Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: C. Benson, K. Tubolino, D. Callaway, A. Evans, S. Martin, C. Eames

Minutes of May 19 meeting approved.

Info Hub Committee Report:
There was no demo of the sample calendar, so the committee could not review it. We can hire someone, however. The possibility of speaking to someone at Compuware was discussed (C. Eames). We will hire for 2 positions: a consultant to evaluate the software, and a technician for data entry. There are several hiring options via WSU: 1. Hire a WSU tech, 2. Hire a DALNET member via Personal Service Contract and send bill to Dee, 3. Hire a grad student, 4. Hire a consulting firm from WSU's list. The budget is $38,000 for the 2 positions and our portion of the software. The hiring committee will include Dee, Scott and Cathy.

Discussion on how can we add value to the health information that already exists on the web:
A nice feature would be a visual calendar page. The Detroit News and Free Press have a list by disease, but not by date. We can add value by presenting a calendar with all area health events listed in one place, organized by date and searchable by keyword. We can present information on transportation options, including all forms of public transport, a link to a mapping site, SMART, DDOT, TOSS (Transportation of Southfield Seniors), Dial a Ride, taxi service, etc. The benefit to the community would be coordination of events and avoidance of schedule conflicts. We can also help area agencies without a website gain a web presence and inclusion in the calendar. See UCS Help Book on the web (www.comnet.org).

Budget discussion:
We have $38,000 in grant money. Anaclare estimates the software at $8-10,000. Consultant estimate: 40-50 hr. design time, approximately $5,000. Data entry technician estimate: $8-10/hr, 10 weeks, $4,000. Plus supplies $500. We will have to budget for maintenance of the site. A possible source of future funding is the selling of ad space. (Since the transportation piece cuts across all 3 Info Hubs, we may be able to get ad revenue from the transportation suppliers.) What about space on a server? It's not in our budget to buy a server.

Other discussion:
The design of the website should be first and foremost attractive.
Copyright: should we consider copyrighting the site?
Do the organizations involved need to be DALNET members? DALNET has various levels of membership. It was suggested that participation in the pilot project be free, and

later there can be a nominal fee charged. They may have to pay to have their information digitized.

Reports from Health Agencies Contacted:

Karen: Detroit Area Agency on Aging has a well developed website.

Anaclare: Epilepsy site is well developed but lacks transportation info.

Carol: Recording for Blind & Dyslexic has only a national website at this time
      American Heart Association has a good website but hasn't returned the form
      Multiple Sclerosis Society has a good website

Dee: Menieres Disease has no website

Sandra: Lupus has a website

Cathy: Childrens Special Health has a spotty website

Daria: Detroit Institute of Opthalmology: no response yet
      Upshaw Institute for the Blind: no response yet

Our website needs to be "findable" via search engines.

For the calendar, all events can be included. Some will be fundraising events, others will be support group meetings or events meant to convey information about the disease.

Discussion returned to the interview committee. In addition to Compuware, another lead may be Brad Fitch at UD Mercy, who is affiliated with the website artsdetroit.com.

Scott will be contacted on the subject of server space.

We will keep each other updated on progress via email.

Change in focus for this committee:

We started out talking about health information in a broad sense, and now the focus is on targeting information from 10 area agencies. We don't want to reinvent what already exists on the web. We can add value by creating a community health calendar.

Once we have done the hiring, where will they work? Dee has an extra phone line and desk, and Anaclare mentioned a 7th floor office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next meeting: Friday, July 21, 2000, 9:30 am at VA Hospital.
      Carol will bring the food, Anaclare will take the minutes