

August 26, 2011

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DEAF STRONG HOSPITAL

On Friday, August 26th, 40 Deaf Community members arrived early in the morning to prepare for yet another Deaf Strong Hospital, hosted by NCDHR and the University of Rochester. After hours of preparation and training, the community members were ready to begin. The rules of the day were, no voice, ASL only, and have fun!

At 1pm, 104 first year medical students arrived to participate in Deaf Strong Hospital 2011. The students were broken into 2 groups. The first group went into an auditorium where Denise Thew and Scott Smith presented some cultural and background information. The second group proceeded into the Deaf Strong Hospital. As these students were all hearing, they entered a world in a language unknown to most of them, American Sign Language. They became the minorities. The students navigated the best

they could through a mock Deaf hospital environment and were “diagnosed” and “treated” according to what illness/ailment script they had.

After they successfully navigated through the Emergency Room, Pharmacy, and Psychiatry departments, they switched with the first group so both groups could

experience the Deaf Strong Hospital.

At the end of the event, the students were broken into several groups and ushered into rooms where a debriefing occurred. A member of the Deaf Community, or someone familiar with the Deaf

Community, was in each room to answer any questions from the students, and supply more information about healthcare issues for Deaf people.

The 104 students were very motivated and excited to participate in





the event. The NCDHR staff and Deaf Community volunteers were surprised and thrilled to see the large number of students that had prepared for the event. To everyone's great surprise, quite a few students had taken the initiative to learn some American Sign Language (more than just the fingerspelling that is required of them)!

Another surprise at the Deaf Strong Hospital 2011 was the Deputy Director of Monroe County Department of Public health, Byron Kennedy, showed up to observe and participate in the event! Taking

on the same role as the first year medical students, Bryon Kennedy also had the opportunity to navigate through the Deaf Strong Hospital. NCDHR was thrilled to have him attend!

NCDHR is proud to say that the event was yet another successful Deaf Strong Hospital. NCDHR thanks everyone who assisted during this event, especially the 40 Deaf

Community members who took on the role as doctors, psychiatrists, pharmacists, and receptionists. NCDHR also thanks Rachel Noel, Tiffany Panko, Jamie Marsden, and Matt Starr for all their hard work facilitating this event.

