

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

NEWS RELEASE

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Ky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting Sept. 29 in Paducah

Individuals, families can learn about available services

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 19, 2012) — The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) will hold a Town Hall Meeting 2-3:30 p.m. (CST) Saturday, Sept. 29, at the McCracken County Public Library, 555 Washington St. in Paducah.

American Sign Language interpreters and a real-time captioning will be provided at this free event.

KCDHH Executive Director Virginia L. Moore will answer questions about the commission and services available to deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families.

The commission also will have a booth at Paducah’s Barbeque on the River festival, Sept. 27-29 in downtown Paducah. At the booth, KCDHH staff members can demonstrate amplified and captioned telephones that are available for free through the KCDHH Telecommunications Access Program (TAP).

“Barbeque on the River is a wonderful event that draws in people from all over Western Kentucky, and the state, and we see this as a great outreach opportunity for us to serve the deaf and hard of hearing community and their families and friends,” Moore said.

Hearing loss is on the radar of national health concerns. It is the third most common health issue in the United States, behind arthritis and heart disease, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). And according to a 2010 NIH study, one in five teenagers will develop a hearing loss at a much younger age due to increased use of music listening devices like headphones and earbuds.

“Those numbers may look daunting, and it can be very frustrating for a person to learn to cope with a hearing loss,” Moore said. “That’s why we want to make ourselves available to discuss issues and

	Total population*	Deaf and hard of hearing population**
McCracken	65,514	10,482
Livingston	9,804	1,569
Graves	37,028	5,924
Carlisle	5,351	856
Marshall	30,125	4,820
Ballard	8,286	1,326
Calloway	34,177	5,468
Fulton	7,752	1,240
Hickman	5,262	842

**Census data extrapolated from results of the 2000 Census, as conducted by the U. S. Census Bureau. Issue: Sept. 2002
** Estimates based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian non-institutionalized population as reported by the National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Updated 2006*

concerns, like communication and assistive technology, so that folks with a hearing loss don't shy away from social interaction."

For more information, visit our website, www.kcdhh.org or contact the KCDHH office at (502) 573-2604 voice/TTY or (502) 416-0607 videophone.

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