

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 9, 2012) — The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will hold a Town Hall Meeting 6 p.m. (CDT) Friday, April 27, at the ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, 1818 31W Bypass in Bowling Green, Ky.

The free event includes a meet-and-greet from 6-7 p.m. with commissioners and other deaf and hard of hearing advocates, followed by a two-hour town hall meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to give deaf and hard of hearing people, their families and loved ones an open forum in which to ask questions of commission members and other experts and share their thoughts on issues they face as deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

According to a 2005 National Health Interview survey, there are 34,559 deaf or hard of hearing individuals in Warren and its six surrounding counties. Warren County alone has a deaf and hard of hearing population of 14,804.

Hearing loss is on the rise in the younger population as well. According to a 2010 report from the National Institutes of Health, one in five teenagers will incur a hearing loss at a much earlier age due to increased music listening on devices on iPods, MP3 players and smartphones. This represents an overall increase in hearing loss of 30 percent in that age group.

During the one-hour meet-and-greet, guests can visit various booths and get valuable information on the Kentucky Association of the Deaf, Hearing Loss Association of America, Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Barren River Resource Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and DeaFestival-Kentucky

Additionally, there will be information from the American Association of Retired Persons and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. There will be visual presentations on how to use the KCDHH website, how to check out materials from the KCDHH resource library and how to find and contact your state legislators.

Refreshments will be provided at this free event. 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.

	Total population*	Deaf and hard of hearing population**
Warren	92,522	14,804
Simpson	16,405	2,625
Logan	26,573	4,252
Edmonson	11,644	1,863
Butler	13,010	2,082
Barren	38,033	6,085
Allen	17,800	2,848
<i>*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</i>		