

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
125th Quarterly Commission Meeting
April 23, 2010
Marriott Cincinnati Airport, Hebron, KY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Nina Coyer, Dr. Patricia Freeman, Ms. Melody Bock-Freeman, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Cristal Collins, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, Mr. Ed Schickel, Mr. Bob Stuckey, Ms. Betty Timon and Ms. Sharon White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jim Thompson, Mr. John Horsley and Ms. Edie Ryan

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Virginia L. Moore, Mr. Derek Drury, Ms. Rowena Holloway and Ms. Leslie Ricketts

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Ms. Dana Parker, Ms. Tammy Cantrell and Ms. Laura Kogut

VISITORS: Mr. Bruce Freeman

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 P.M. The board Secretary, Ms. Bock-Freeman, called roll and as there was a quorum present, the meeting continued. The Secretary asked for corrections to the minutes from 124th Quarterly Commission meeting held on January 22, 2010, in Frankfort, KY. No corrections were offered.

Commissioner Schickel (Commissioner Niehaus) MOVED TO ACCEPT the minutes from the 124th Quarterly Commission meeting as read. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Executive Board:

During the, March 17, 2010, meeting the Executive Board discussed:

- Four commissioner's terms are expiring June 30, 2010: Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD), Kentucky Speech-Hearing-Language Association (KSHA), Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the Service Provider position, which is selected by the board.
- Commissioner Timon accepted the Chair's invitation to become Chair of the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board effective July 1, as the current Chair is not reapplying.
- Commissioner Niehaus accepted the Chair's invitation to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board.

- Several qualified applicants have applied for the executive advisor position currently vacant at KCDHH. Consideration was given to converting the position to merit status since a large portion of non-merit positions are being eliminated to balance the state budget. However, the Personnel department confirmed that this would have no bearing on the elimination of the position if mandated, so applicants will be informed of the situation up front during interviews.
- Both the Parent Package and education position statement were discussed and will be discussed in detail during the Commission Meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

The Chair formally introduced the retreat facilitator, Ms. Heather Harker.

Agency Report:

The Executive Director provided highlights of the report and encouraged members to ask any questions of the information provided for review.

Legislation that would strengthen 911 provisions failed to pass during the 2010 session. However, KCDHH is serving in an advisory capacity to the Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) board, regarding 911 call centers and related issues that the deaf and hard of hearing community faces during emergencies. Both CMRS and KCDHH are looking forward to the partnership and working to improve services for all deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

KCDHH received several wonderful opportunities this quarter to advise various agencies regarding updates to their regulations to better accommodate the deaf and hard of hearing citizens throughout the state.

KCDHH continues to work with a consultant who has experience in public relations and is familiar with the deaf and hard of hearing community, to develop an aggressive PR plan for the agency and its programs.

KCDHH tested captioning technology to see what best accommodates deaf and hard of hearing consumers. During the meeting, three screens with captioning were used to better meet the visual needs of Board. Users were asked to provide feedback regarding the ease of using this equipment and its impact on enhancing communication.

DeaFestival planning continues to progress. Horse Cave has proven to be a logistical challenge, but resolutions are in sight. Hotels and campground sites are booking fast and details are being completed by all staff for the September 4, 2010 event.

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Finance:

Legislators failed to pass a budget for the Executive Branch during the 2010 regular session which closed on April 15. The Governor has indicated that a Special Session will be called prior to July 1 to resolve the budget controversy. The agency's budget remains on target and funds are available for wireless devices within the TAP and will be utilized once vendor contracts are finalized. The Executive Director worked with Legislators during the session and requested that agency funds be restored to ensure efficient and effective operation of the agency's programs.

THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ**Telecommunications Access Program:**

Commissioner Stuckey explained that the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board did not meet during the last quarter because vendor contract had yet to be finalized. The deadline for the current equipment contracts was extended to July 1 to correlate with the end of the fiscal year. An Advisory Board meeting will be called once the bid closes to select vendors for the upcoming contracts.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**American Sign Language Instructor Study Group:**

The study group did not meet during this quarter as obtainable goals had been met. A final report was provided, which included the recommendation that a new study group proposal be submitted. The new study group topic would include investigating issues surrounding the PRAXIS test and certification of ASL teachers in grades K-12.

THE SIGN LANGUAGE STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**Movie Theater Access:**

Commissioner Timon expressed appreciation for the support, communication and testimonies given to support House Bill 439 during the House Judiciary Subcommittee meeting on February 16, 2010. The Subcommittee amended the bill to a study group that would evaluate the types of technology available, and provide a cost analysis for purchase and installation of the equipment. HB 439 was held during the last days of the session and failed to pass, however, the Chair of both the House Judiciary subcommittee and the Senate Judiciary subcommittee assured the Executive Director that these issues can be addressed during the summer recess.

THE MOVIE THEATER ACCESS STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The recommendations for nominations to fill the vacancies for KAD, KSHA and HLAA have been received and submitted to the Governor's office for consideration. Appointments are forthcoming.

The Board reviewed applications for the Service Provider Representative and after careful consideration and discussion, selected Mr. Joe Scott to fill the three-year term effective July 1, 2010. Mr. Scott works as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf in Richmond.

The Finance and Administration Cabinet approved expansion of the current state government contract for wireless devices. AT&T is the provider and final negotiations are in progress to finalize the contract. AT&T is the number one provider of hearing aid compatible devices.

The Parent Package has been placed on hold since the consultant, who is a professor at California State University Northridge and a board member of the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) council, is currently on leave. KCDHH has been in contact with the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) who will repackage the present Parent Package in a more inclusive format prior to distribution. The possibility of providing a DVD coupled with the reading material was discussed by the Board and will be reviewed with CCSHCN. If created, the DVD would also be accessible via the KCDHH Web site. The Board was in full support of these recommendations.

The Vice Chair presented the proposed KCDHH educational position statement, which supports all children having an opportunity to be educated in the least restricted environment to meet their individual communication needs. This position statement also advocates for parents having the right to place their child in an appropriate educational setting regardless of financial hurdles within the school district.

Commissioner Schickel (Commissioner Collins) MOVED TO ACCEPT the position statement as presented. The motion carried. The statement will be available for use by students, parents or other partnering agencies upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

The Strategic Planning retreat will be held tomorrow, April 24 at this location. Ground rules and communication protocol will be discussed with participants at the adjournment of this meeting.

Commissioner Schickel submitted a proposal identifying Paula Esterle as his proxy for the next Commission meeting to be held on July 23, 2010.

Commissioner Coyer (Commissioner Freeman) MOVED TO ACCEPT the proposal. The motion carried.

Commissioner Schickel submitted a proposal requesting that all agency reports, meeting minutes, and agendas be posted to the agency website in a timely manner and remains available for one year. After extensive discussion and examination of the current live website, it was determined that the requested information is available and the problem with timely access was due to a technical function on Commissioner Schickel's computer. The Executive Director indicated that this issue would be addressed in the next edition of the *Communicator* to ensure that other consumers are not under the assumption that information is not available.

Pursuant to the discussion, Commissioner Schickel withdrew his original motion and the Board accepted the withdrawal.

Commissioner Timon submitted a proposal to study the membership structure of the Commission. During discussion it was explained that due to the current climate of state government and our focus on budgetary priorities, this issue might be more successful at a later date. The board agreed.

Pursuant to the discussion, Commissioner Timon withdrew her original motion and the Board accepted the withdrawal.

Commissioner Coyer (Commissioner Freeman) MOVED TO ADJOURN and asked that Board members convene for a short executive session. The motion carried.

Commissioner Coyer (Commissioner Freeman) MOVED TO RECONVENE the 125th Commission meeting.

Commissioner Niehaus (Commissioner Bayersdorfer) MOVED TO ACCEPT the recommendation of the Board to provide the Executive Director with a 5% increment based on her recent six month performance evaluation. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 126th quarterly meeting will be held on July 23, 2010, at the Transportation Cabinet Office Building in Frankfort.

Commissioner Freeman announced that the University of Kentucky HMO health insurance now lists hearing aids as a covered benefit for children under age 18.

Commissioner Stuckey (Commissioner White) MOVED TO ADJOURN. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.