

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
131st Quarterly Commission Meeting
October 29, 2011
Louisville Free Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Amy Hatzel, Dr. Patricia Freeman, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Susan Brown, Mr. Joe Scott, Ms. Marilyn Fenwick, Ms. Becky Bush, Ms. Barbie Harris, Mr. John Horsley, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, Ms. Sharon White, Mr. Ed Schickel (proxy for Ms. Becky Crawford)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jim Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Virginia L. Moore, Ms. Rachel Payne and Ms. Katie Huber

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Ms. Audrey Lambert, Ms. Hunter Bryant and Ms. Laura Kogut

VISITORS: Ms. Jean Haynes, Mr. Ron Haynes, Ms. Elizabeth Landers, Mr. Bob Kuprion, the Horsley Family and Mr. Bob Stuckey

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM. Commissioner Coyer, Chair, introduced Ms. Barbie Harris who replaced Ms. Betty Timon as a Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) representative. Commissioner Crawford sent a representative, Mr. Ed Schickel, as a proxy for this meeting. Commissioner Coyer, Chair, introduced all the visitors and welcomed them to the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Coyer (Commissioner Fenwick) MOVED TO ACCEPT Mr. Ed Schickel as proxy for Ms. Becky Crawford for this meeting. The motion carried.

The Secretary, Commissioner Fenwick, called roll and as there was a quorum present, the meeting continued. The Chair asked for any corrections to the minutes from the 130th Quarterly Commission meeting held on July 29, 2011, at the Northern KY Campbell County Public Library-Newport Branch. Some members provided grammatical edits and the minutes were accepted with corrections.

Commissioner Hatzel (Commissioner Bayersdorfer) MOVED TO ACCEPT the minutes from the 130th Quarterly Commission meeting with corrections. The Motion carried.

REPORTS

Executive Board Report

The Executive Board met on September 22, 2011. They discussed the current study groups and the finance report. A full report will be provided later. The Executive Director announced that everything was going as planned for the NAD conference that will be held in Louisville, July 2-7, 2012. The Kentucky School for the Deaf, African American, graduation was a huge success. KCDHH has a picture of the students who received their diplomas hanging in the entry way of the office. Also the staff and volunteers did a great job at the state fair. There were a lot of requests that were submitted resulting from the state fair. Such as our Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) and where individuals can take sign language classes. More in depth reports will be given later in this meeting. Some members noted grammatical corrections to the minutes provided.

Commissioner Freeman (Commissioner Brown) MOVED TO ACCEPT the Executive Board minutes, with corrections. The Motion carried.

Agency Report

Ms. Moore welcomed everyone to Louisville. Having the Commission meeting at the state park at their busiest time of the year would have been very expensive for the Commission and the budget wouldn't allow for that so it was moved to Louisville. The Commission was very thankful that the Louisville's Free Public Library could accommodate our needs for this day.

Due to the Commission working on revamping the website, KCDHH hired a photographer to come and take pictures of this meeting. The photos will then be posted on the new website once it's up and running. The staff has been working very hard on breaking the web information down into sections and updating all the information to make it easier to access and more user friendly. It is a work in progress. KCDHH thought today would be great opportunity for the photographer to come and get some actions photos of what our meetings look like, including the accommodations made to host a successful meeting. The professional photographer has been to DeaFestival several times showing her photos as an artist, and has also recently published a book called "Second Chances". She is a very talented individual and the Commission is lucky to have her here with us today to assist with photographs for the website.

Ms. Moore continued with the agency report. The Information Office Supervisor position has been very difficult to fill. Interviews were conducted and the interview committee offered the position to two different individuals, which turned down the position due to the salary that can be offered. To obtain a new pool of applicants, the position was closed and then reopened. KCDHH sent out Eblitzes, advertised in newspapers, and tried to spread the word by mouth. Once the position closes then interviews will be conducted again. The Executive director will provide a follow up at the next meeting.

On September 20th, Secretary Meyer came to the KCDHH office to have an "open door" meeting with individuals who would like to sit down and talk with him either individually or in a group. His reasoning is to ensure that all agencies not located in the Capitol

Towers where he is located, have the same opportunity to sit down and talk about their questions or concerns. Secretary Meyer met with each one of KCDHH's staff members and talked with them about different subjects. Some questions were brought up about allowing compensatory time for daily activities and special projects. Secretary Meyer took down notes about the staff concerns. Later the Executive Director was advised that personnel had obtained permission to give COMP time for big projects such as for people who are working on the budget and regulation changes. Another question brought to Secretary Meyer's attention was a request for information on future cost of living increases. He said that cost of living was something that would be brought up in the upcoming legislative session and we would be advised. Other concerns were brought to his attention and Secretary Meyer's listened and was very down to earth and made the staff feel comfortable talking with him.

The Executive Director thanked KCDHH staff and our commissioners for a job well done regarding organizing Kentucky School for the Deaf African American Graduation, and also recognized the hard work Commissioner Sharon White put into the production. Not only has it touched the lives of Kentucky African Americans who are deaf but now it is impacting people nationwide. The story was published in Sign News so now other states and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) are starting to look at how many students were affected nationwide during those years (40's – 60's) and are going to try to see what more they can do about these situations.

At the Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) conference in Atlanta last July the Executive Director served on a panel that discussed the shifting borders between the deaf community and interpreters and where is that relationship today. On a national level RID is concerned that the relationship is divided between interpreters and the deaf community, and it is happening in Kentucky as well. More and more students are graduating from an interpreter training program but do not have experience in working with the deaf community, so RID is trying to find avenues on how to change that. RID announced that the Executive Director of RID has resigned and that they are searching for new leadership to foster these goals. KCDHH's Executive Director mentioned that a deaf individual elected as the new RID Executive Director could help to bring the relationship back between interpreters and the deaf community. Commissioner Hatzel agreed and stated she would bring that suggestion the attention of the committee.

At the Kentucky Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) conference held on September 30 and October 1, the KCDHH Executive Director and Commissioner Niehaus both presented. Ms. Moore presented on interpreters being in the moment when working with the deaf and hard of hearing population. Interpreters must know what the needs are of those two populations, because some hard of hearing individuals don't have access to CART and it's very important for interpreters to broaden themselves to understand the role they can play with individuals with all types of hearing loss. One recommendation to new interpreters was to take an acting class to learn how to incorporate the character of the consumer and take on that role, to become a better interpreter in that situation. Commissioner Niehaus and Ms. Maura McDonald presented on interpreting in mental health situations. They discussed the different mental health

issues, understanding diagnoses, how to analyze the diagnosis and what interpreters need to do to figure out the best way to interpret what the doctor is saying effectively. Mental health setting should only be staffed with qualified interpreters, as throwing any interpreter into a mental health setting can do more harm than good due to the fact that interpreters don't always know the necessary terms and dynamics of the situation. In order to get more interpreters qualified in mental health settings, four Kentucky interpreters were sent to Alabama's Mental Health Interpreting Training to gain knowledge and bring it back to Kentucky. At the spring 2012 KYRID conference, these four individuals will hold a workshop to train other interpreters in what they learned in Alabama. The Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, will continue to send four new interpreters each year to the Alabama conference, until Kentucky can increase its pool of interpreters who are specialized in this area. Once more interpreters are trained in the field then Kentucky can pursue a qualified mental health interpreter status within licensure. At the National level there is a core group already working to make mental health interpreting a specialty certification and KCDHH will keep this in the forefront of its goals and monitor the process to see if there is anything KCDHH can do to make this a specialty certification.

The Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) and KCDHH have been looking closely at the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), which is a tool designed to evaluate the voice-to-sign and sign-to-voice interpreting skills of interpreters who work in the elementary and secondary school classroom settings. The EIPA evaluates the ability to expressively interpret classroom content and discourse and the ability to receptively interpret student or teen sign language. It is not limited to any one sign language or system. EIPA is used to evaluate interpreters who work with students and teenagers who predominately use American Sign Language (ASL), Manually-Coded English (MCE) and Pidgin Sign English (PSE). Recently, KCDHH has started to provide EIPA testing at the office. Ms. Rachel Rodgers and Ms. Robin Hart will be scheduling and conducting these tests. If an individual gets the EIPA certification it does not qualify them to practice in Kentucky community interpreters, it only means that they can interpret in an educational setting. KBI is closely monitoring the delineations between EIPA and national certification to ensure it does not weaken Kentucky's licensure requirements for certified interpreters.

KCDHH became aware of a Federal grant called "The Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Project." It is a result of the passage of the 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act and therefore has a lot of federal guidelines, including funding distributions, to follow. Many agencies in other states are tentative about applying for the grant because of the lengthy rules and regulations connected to it. Kentucky would be allocated \$197,000 for the purchase of deaf-blind equipment and training of individuals on the equipment. After review of the requirements, KCDHH decided a partnership of agencies would best be able to manage the requirements outlined by the Federal grant. KCDHH contacted the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Office for the Blind (OFB) and the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Center On Deafness (COD), and worked to form partnership to apply for the grant funds. The Kentucky Assistive

Technology Services (KATS) network may also be used more for referrals for the senior citizens who have a vision loss. OVR and OFB will do assessments and determine the equipment needed and provide or coordinate training of the individuals while KCDHH will order the equipment through vendors. ECU and COD will administer the grant, track the activities and provide the stringent reporting that must be submitted to the Federal government during the two year project.

When Kentucky's Relay service provider switched from Hamilton to Sprint in March of 2010, CapTel users began complaining that the service had slowed and the phones were not working as well. After some discussions with Sprint representatives and various telephone service providers, we have reached the conclusion that problems arise when people bundle their phone services. When services are bundled it typically changes your analog telephone line to a digital telephone line, so that communications run across the internet in conjunction with TV and computer usage. If that's the case those individuals need the CapTel 800i which is digitally based rather than the CapTel 800 which is analog based. KCDHH had been receiving many calls regarding such issues and worked with Sprint to direct these calls to the service centers for CapTel and Sprint rather than to KCDHH. Sprint has hired two part time outreach and training coordinators to work with consumers in Kentucky to improve services and the image of relay. Sprint was unable to send a representative to the State Fair booth this year, but after discussions with the representative Sprint has committed to being available and sponsoring the booth next fall. Consumers are encouraged to contact Sprint with any complaints so they can be resolved quickly as they are not receiving any from Kentuckians according to their reports, only from KCDHH.

The Kentucky Educational Television (KET) network contacted KCDHH to request partnership in promoting a new film in their series called "Deaf Jam". KET stated they typically have a low turnout and wanted us to assist with outreach to the community. Although it was short notice, KCDHH was able to encourage about 75 people to attend this showing and KET was amazed at the turnout. KCDHH has in return asked if KET will partner with us to do a short film to get the word out about DeafFestival 2012.

Ms. Moore concluded the agency report and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Niehaus asked about the National Voters Registration Act (NVRA). Ms. Moore explained that we were contacted by the State Board of Elections and attended a meeting with other agencies that might be impacted by the NVRA, which is a federal requirement. After researching it was determined that the only program possibly impacted at KCDHH was the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). However, after further research with the national organization of equipment distribution programs it was determined that unless the program is federally funded, and TAP is not, that the NVRA does not apply to that program.

Ms. Brown asked about using Commissioners to partner with KCDHH on outreach. Ms. Moore explained that since our agency is small some commissioners have volunteered in the past to work booths in their local area. If any commissioner becomes aware of such an opportunity and would like to volunteer, please contact KCDHH and he/she will

be provided with the necessary items to complete the outreach. Ms. Moore thanked Ms. Brown for this reminder and encouragement to new Commissioners.

As requested by the Board, one staff member is to be spotlighted during each quarterly Commission meeting to allow for more direct and open communication between staff and Commissioners. Ms. Rachel Rodgers, Interpreter Referral Specialist, is spotlighted today and she explained her job duties and responsibilities at KCDHH. Her daily activities include coordinating interpreters and captioning services for state agencies and taking some calls in the information department if it deals with advocating for the deaf individual if a private entity refuses to provide an interpreter. She also is the local test administrator for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), she schedules and administers the RID, NIC performance, NIC legal exam-both written and performance test and recently added the EIPA testing to her duties as well. She is also the liaison for the nursing home study group and completes other projects as instructed by the Executive Director, including functioning as the lead with the Executive Director in coordinating logistics for DeaFestival. She also functions as one of the interpreters for the commission, and is occasionally sent on outside assignments to represent KCDHH. Ms. Rogers is a true asset to the agency and we are very thankful to have her.

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Finance Report

The Executive Director announced that staff prepared and submitted the 2012-2014 proposed budget predictions, which involved a narrative to describe every aspect of the work we do at KCDHH and financial justification for why the funds requested are needed and how they will be spent. A fourteenth position has been requested, to assist with the daily activities of the TAP as the number of applicants for wireless equipment has increased significantly. This position would be funded by restricted funds, which are being collected from the telecommunications surcharge, and are sufficient to support the request. However, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget must approve the entire budget proposal and there are no guarantees it will be approved.

The Executive Director explained that what was thought to be a one-time budget cut for KCDHH, due to the vacancy of the Deputy Executive Director position, has been advised to be permanent and that position has been abolished since it was non-merit. The funds tied to that position were to be used to fund the Executive Staff Advisor position and after much debate we succeeded in moving the funds to that title permanently. During the last quarter, KCDHH also incurred a 1.5% recurring budget reduction for the current fiscal year and was able to meet that obligation without losing a staff position. The Governor abolished furloughs, which is wonderful for staff, but the agency has to absorb the difference in personnel expenses from the existing allocations which will be tough. To balance the current year budget the Governor also mandated that eleven months of salaries come out of this FY funding and the twelfth month is to be taken from the next FY funding allotments. This is part of the Governor's savings plan to balance the state budget.

THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Telecommunications Access Program Report

The Executive Director informed the Commissioners of a situation with a consumer that arose recently and proceeded to the Governor's office. A parent requested permission to sign for a minor under 13 years of age to obtain an iPhone from the TAP. Policy has been that applicants must be 13 to set up an iTunes account, so that age was used as a cut off for selection of the iPhone. The Executive Director discussed TAP policy with the Cabinet attorney and a conclusion was made that until revisions can be made to add an age limit to the current regulations governing TAP, equipment will be provided to minors on a case by case basis and with authorization from the guardian that they assume full responsibility for the use of the equipment. Regulation changes had been held off until a cumulative update could be done to incorporate all the details of the addition of wireless to the TAP. Revisions have now been filed with the Legislative Research Commission and we are in process of waiting on comments for a public hearing scheduled for December 21, 2011. If none are requested, then amendments will move to the next phase and go before the legislative subcommittee for review and approval. Final approval is anticipated in March 2012. At that time the TAP materials will be updated to restrict iPhone selections to those consumers 13 years of age or older.

Other vendors have shown interest in taking over the wireless portion of the TAP. Ms. Moore was approached at the National Association of State Relay Administrators (NASRA) and explained that Kentucky has a process that vendors must go through in order to become a state contractor. She explained the RFP process and also the other criteria required by TAP that the company would have to meet. One vendor said they could meet all the criteria except the credit check. The company said in order for them to give their phones out they have to have the individuals back ground check and credit references on file. Ms. Moore stated that was something that KCDHH would not concede to and that if our current wireless vendor could work around that requirement, they should. KCDHH is considering opening an RFP after the 2012 legislation session ends in April 2012 to take a look at other providers and see if they bid on the contract as outlined by our program. KCDHH must consider the coverage each vendor has in the state of Kentucky, as some do not serve Eastern or Western Kentucky very well.

The current challenge with the TAP is that consumers who received their wireless devices through AT&T at the beginning of the program last fall have not been notified that their package plan is expiring and they should be assuming responsibility for the monthly billing. KCDHH is working hard to resolve this issue. AT&T should contact all the individuals and ask them if they want to continue service or not and at what rate. Commissioners who have received devices through TAP were asked to notify KCDHH when AT&T does contact them and provide us with feedback as to what was offered and how it was explained to them.

KCDHH is working through the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Administrators (TEDPA) national association and a company called AST Laboratory to ensure that amplified phones meet the specifications outlined in their advertisements. TEDPA is working to standardize the ratings used for all amplified phones distributed by state programs to ensure customers are getting the best product available. States may be asked to assist in this effort by supporting the testing costs of one product each and then share that information with other state programs. The TAP Advisory Board will work with KCDHH staff upon renewal of equipment contracts to ensure the best product available is chosen for the program distribution.

Ms. Moore concluded the TAP report and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Schickel asked that TAP take a strong look at Verizon as a service provider. He states that Verizon has the same phones as AT&T but that Verizon works on a Code division multiple access (CDMA) network which is significantly better for hearing aid compatibility. Ms. Moore explained that unfortunately Verizon has never shown any interest in the program and coverage is sporadic throughout the more rural areas of the state. However, should an RFP be issued Verizon would be notified if they are registered as a vendor for the state. Another question Mr. Schickel asked was exactly how many minutes does the wireless program include. Ms. Moore explained that the wireless service plan in place was not adequately serving our consumers, especially deaf consumers that use a significant amount of data monthly. Therefore, the plan was renegotiated and increased to unlimited data and unlimited text and 100 voice minutes for \$45 dollars a month plus taxes. All accounts were made retroactive to that rate, and consumers have been advised of the change. The hard of hearing individuals that use more minutes can change their plan from 100 minutes of talk time to 300 minutes of talk time for approximately \$57 dollars a month plus taxes according to our AT&T representative, but must do this individually since they manage their own accounts. There is another plan available that increases your talk time to 700 minutes with free mobile to mobile. That plan is stated to increase your monthly bill to \$65 dollars a month plus taxes. This will cause the funds allocated to be consumed faster, however each of these plans are at a much better rate than individual consumers could acquire if they were not initially on the state plan. Consumers are encouraged to make any changes to their monthly payment plans while they are under the auspice of the TAP, as that rate will remain in effect ongoing once the TAP funds are exhausted if the consumer continues service. This is a Kentucky state plan discount, so if individuals are going outside of Kentucky and calling to change their plans, AT&T customer service representatives in those states do not understand the agreement with KCDHH.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

K-12 Educational Study Group

Deaf and hard of hearing children are falling through the cracks within the educational system in most counties throughout Kentucky. These kids are suffering and are not obtaining the services to meet their needs. This study group has been researching how

improvements can be made in the current system and has asked the Department of Education (DOE) to provide data on these children. At the next study group meeting members will look more into the American Institute of Research (AIR) report which did a comprehensive study in 2002 recommending improvements to the way the educational needs and services of deaf and hard of hearing students are provided. Once the group looks into this report again, recommendations for improvements will be made to the DOE. Commissioners should be aware that the AIR report's initial recommendations have not been followed up with and what was agreed upon back in 2002 has not been met to date. This is an ongoing struggle and the study group is striving to regain the DOE's focus on this critical issue.

Chair, Ms. Nina Coyer, also mentioned that her goal is to require teachers of deaf and hard of hearing students to have a minimal level of signing skills to work in K-12 settings. Once teachers meet the minimum standard, then they would have to take more advance American Sign Language (ASL) classes each year to continue working with those students until fluency is obtained.

THE K-12 EDUCATIONAL STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Addressing Service Needs Study Group

Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Niehaus provided updates on the progress of the study group. During the last quarter members have met with the Director of the Barren River Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (BRRCDHH) in Bowling Green and their greatest need was identified as requiring assistance with writing grants to fund projects in that area. Mostly consumers need educational opportunities on how to better advocate for themselves, foster leadership in the area and get the word out that services are available through their agency. BRCDHH would like technical assistance from KCDHH to add v-logs and other improvements to their website.

Mr. Scott asked Commissioners for feedback or suggestions on how to proceed with this group's efforts regarding getting more assistance in the rural area for case management-type issues. Ms. Moore asked if the Center for Accessible Living had been contacted in Louisville and Commissioner Niehaus stated that she has had discussions with them and they are interested. Ms. Niehaus also updated the Board on what the group is attempting to accomplish since there are many new members aboard. The concept is to improve accessibility to services in general for deaf and hard of hearing and provide more services such as systems navigation or outreach. Ideally one stop centers would be set up around the state in partnership with other agencies to provide integrated physical and mental services. Consumers would work with outreach workers that understand their culture and language and not have the stigma attached to seeking strictly mental health services. The study group has consulted with grant writers at Eastern Kentucky University's Center on Deafness to find funding. Study group members have also met with Kentucky River Community Care, one of the Community Mental Health Centers throughout the state, and they are working on plans

to develop such “hubs” throughout their region and are willing to work with the study group to facilitate a partnership to accomplish the overall goals. The meetings have been very positive and the group is focusing on working with the Eastern Kentucky groups first since services are desperately needed in that area. Some discussion was held about providing space at KCDHH for a worker if needed and also providing letters of support for the grant writing team. Further discussion on the grant writing possibilities is scheduled for November 15th. Mr. Schickel advised that the Hearing Loss Association of American (HLAA) group that is forming in Bowling Green would also be glad to write a letter of support for the grant applications and host any speakers that might want to present this idea to the community that attends those meetings. Ms. Moore suggested that HLAA send a statewide support letter also to show the groups within Kentucky that are willing to work on this partnership.

THE ADDRESSING SERVICE NEEDS STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Nursing Home Study Group

In the meeting, new approaches were discussed about how to make nursing homes more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing patients. The Ombudsman’s representative shared that there is a grant available called Civil Monetary Penalties (CMP). The money to fund the CMP is collected from fines imposed by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) due to regulatory violations noted in nursing homes. The grant’s purpose is to improve the quality of life and care for patients and could be used to provide them with equipment, such as video conferencing, or UbiDuos to facilitate communication. The study group is researching the cost of the equipment and will make recommendations for the kinds of equipment needed and the proper locations for the equipment to be effectively utilized by the most patients. The group is also working together to get an information pamphlet together to pass out to those individuals who enter the nursing home and their families, advising them of their rights and what can be provided to facilitate communication. In order to get this information the group is contacting other states who have nursing homes designed specifically for the deaf and hard of hearing. Once all the data has been collected, recommendations will be made and the study group will meet with the OIG to see how improvements can be made. The study group is also in the process of educating the contacts as most of them are unaware of the ADA and the communication rights of deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

Commissioner’s Brown and Freeman made some suggestions for the group to incorporate into the survey being conducted, including Medicare and Medicaid laws governing identification of patients in long term care facilities and how questions should be added to the initial assessments made when a patient enters the facility. The minimum data set, as the assessment is called, has not been changed since 1999 and definitely could use some improvements. The group is working with Ms. Kimberly Baker, the state’s long term care Ombudsman to facilitate improvements such as this. Commissioner Bayersdorfer asked if this group was also considering these improvements at rehabilitation facilities and Commissioner Fenwick stated that they are

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focusing on nursing homes for this year and will broaden the reach if they are successful in making some changes within this age old system that is slow to be modified.

THE NURSING HOME STUDY GROUP GOAL REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The “Parent Package” is finalized and KCDHH continues to seek funding sources to print the materials. We are still working with the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) as this is a result of the passage of House Bill 5 which was an unfunded mandate. Hopefully something will be resolved by the next commission meeting

NEW BUSINESS

- There is one more position vacant on the Executive Board and members discussed it and asked Mr. Bayersdorfer to join. He has accepted this nomination and the commission thanks him for this service.
- With the expiration of Ms. Timon’s term, another Chair is needed for the TAP Advisory Board, and Ms. Becky Crawford was recommended. She has yet to accept or deny this nomination.
- KCDHH has been working closely with the Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD), Knowledge Center on Deafness (KCD) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) for the upcoming DeaFestival.

Open Forum

Ms. Nina Coyer suggests that the Commission get a Twitter account, as she believes it is more current issue related than Facebook, which tends to be more personal. Ms. Niehaus suggested that KCDHH put on a workshop called social media utilizing specialists who work with the Kentucky Seed Program. Maybe invite other agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Hands and voices, etc. Ms. Niehaus also offered to lead this effort. Ms. Moore suggested that social media is very beneficial in distributing information but also consumes manpower in monitoring and posting information and confidentiality issues have to be considered. This will be one of the responsibilities of the new Information Office Supervisor position and hopefully we can expand to all types of social media’s to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Scott recommended that KCDHH revisit issues that deal with the deaf and hard of hearing and the Kentucky State Police due to a recent misunderstand with a deaf individual. Ms. Moore suggests that individual needs to contact KCDHH so we can get involved and see how we can advocate and also provide him/her with a visitor card to

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assist in these situations. KCDHH will also include such situations in the annual training that is done with the Police Academy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Coyer congratulated Commissioner White on receiving the Governor's Award for Leadership. Ms. White now has a brick with her name on it located at the History Museum.
- Ms. Moore indicated that staff is focusing on revamping the KCDHH website to ensure vital information is included and the overall website is more friendly and easier to access. She asked that Commissioners provide feedback as to what improvements they would like to see.
- Next Commission meeting will be held on January 27, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the Transportation Cabinet building in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The meeting moved into a closed session, per the current bylaws, at 1:19 p.m.

Commissioner Freeman (Commissioner Brown) MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair, Nina Coyer

Secretary, Marilyn Fenwick