

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
137<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Commission Meeting  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Kenlake State Resort Park, Hardin KY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Joe Scott, Ms. Marilyn Fenwick, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Sharon White, Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Becky Crawford, Ms. Barbie Harris, Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Amy Hatzel, Ms. Edie Ryan, and Proxy for Ms. Michelle Niehaus (Ms. Krysten Dekker)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Becky Bush, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, and Mr. John Horsley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. Virginia Moore, Mr. Blake Noland, and Mr. Tom Musgrave

**COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS:** Ms. Rachel Morgan, Ms. Artie Grassman, and Ms. Tracy Lundergan

**VISITORS:** Mr. Ron Haynes, Ms. Jean Haynes, Mr. Ed Schickel, Mr. Archie Harris, Mr. Wilton McMillan, and Mr. Rod Grassman

Ms Nina Coyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Fenwick, Secretary, called roll and welcomed everyone to the 137<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Commission Meeting. As a quorum was present, the meeting continued. Ms. Coyer asked if there were any correction to the minutes of the 136<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting, held on February 22, 2013 in Frankfort, and Mr. Bayersdorfer submitted a few typographical corrections.

**MS. AMY HATZEL (MS. BARBIE HARRIS) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORTS**

**Executive Board:**

Ms. Nina Coyer reviewed the Executive Board meeting discussion of March 14, which included information on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for KCDHH; Commercial Driver's License (CDL) testing for deaf; Study Group reports; the updated process for the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP); and KCDHH's new website.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

**Agency:**

The Executive Director discussed state agencies opportunity to meet with the Governor and discuss pertinent issues; which included KCDHH funding, advocacy, jobs, the cost of hearing aids for adults, and more importantly, the urgency of working with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to make sure that deaf and hard of hearing children have

no barriers in the educational system. The Governor was astonished at the lack of coverage for hearing aids for adults and asked for a referral to a good audiologist himself.

Ms. Moore gave a Personnel update about the 14<sup>th</sup> position, Database Processing Specialist II, and advised that KCDHH had received over 250 applicants. The screening process has been difficult due to the state's lack of understanding about terms such as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and Kentucky Association for the Deaf (KAD), and the agency has had to ensure those applicants are not eliminated as such experience is vital to any position within the agency. Ms. Moore also gave an update on the Interpreter I position; indicating only nine applications were received, with only two passing state screening. As that does not give a large enough pool to select from the position is being reposted. Temporary help from Adecco has been acquired to answer the phones for the agency while the position is reposted.

Ms. Moore went on to explain that Smart911 is an effective but slowly expanding service, currently available in Frankfort, Lexington, and Owensboro, but not in Louisville. To participate in the service for emergency notification a person registers personal and health information for themselves and their family members. Once registered, when 911 is dialed the Smart911 center pulls that information to ensure correct services are provided immediately. Cities that are not currently participating do not have access to such vital information, and KCDHH is working with other state agencies to obtain grant funds to expand Smart911 statewide. Ms. Moore showed a videotape highlighting Gallaudet's Text911 service and its importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community and explained that due to a federal mandate all 911 services are to be text-accessible by 2014. KCDHH is pushing to include Danville in the Smart911 service and expand it to other cities throughout the state.

Ms. Moore mentioned an article in a Louisville newspaper from an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) graduate, complaining about Kentucky's interpreter licensure law requirements. However, temporary licensure can be obtained by passing the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), which is a conversational testing guide and should not be difficult to pass for a recent graduate of the ITP. KCDHH's goal is to provide more testing opportunities for interpreters and is purchasing slots for the SLPI. This will reduce the financial burden of obtaining temporary licensure and allow interpreters to work toward full certification, to keep standards high for professional interpreters in the state. Ms. Moore also mentioned that we are proposing KCDHH as a SLPI testing site, but raters are needed for the screenings so she encouraged anyone on the board to contact the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) interpreter coordinator with referrals.

According to TAP update provided earlier, Ms. Moore explained that two changes are occurring. Recipients will now be under a pool plan, providing them with 12 months of service and reducing the confusion about billing and AT&T is adding a designated person to deal with problems at the store level during transition of services to the customers own account. In addition, Ms. Moore announced that TAP would be adding a new signaling device package to equipment offerings. The package includes a vibrating signaler for the customers' telephone or videophone and a smoke alarm that connects to the transmitter, with a charging unit and the option of purchasing a doorbell at a reduced price that can be connected to the transmitter.

Ms. Moore updated the Board on the new KCDHH website and advised that the Spanish version now available. We have received some feedback on the website, have made adjustments accordingly, and encourage the community to continue to make recommendations for improvements.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Kentucky Chapters, first regional conference is still being planned and we are collaborating with KAD and the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID) to ensure success. Ms. Kathy Buckley, a nationally known hard of hearing comedian will provide entertainment and Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be offered for professionals for most of the workshops during the conference. KAD and KyRID are partnering to produce their Fall conference and the title *We Rise with Collaboration*, helps remind the general audience about the importance of promoting accessibility for both consumers and professional interpreters.

### **THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

#### **Finance:**

Ms. Moore gave an overview of the agency's finances and advised that expenditures are on target and no additional budget cuts or furloughs are anticipated for the remainder of the fiscal year. TAP funds are slightly below target expenditures, but this was done to preserve funds for the new equipment addition. The end of the year close out is anticipated to be completed June 30 without any issues.

### **THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

#### **K-12 Educational Study Group:**

Ms. Moore summarized the groups' progress by explaining that the First Steps program changed their regulations and Heuser Hearing Institute and the Lexington Speech and Hearing Center had some concerns with the revisions. The changes involved decreasing the decibel (Db) loss to 25 to qualify for services and no change was made to the priority level for services to deaf or hard of hearing children, which was the misconception that caused the biggest concern. KCDHH continues to work with First Steps staff to set up and train qualified staff in all districts to ensure that families have sufficient information and resources on services available once their child is identified as having a hearing loss. By adding criteria requiring providers to be teachers of the deaf, KSD will be a valuable resource and excellent addition as a provider through First Steps.

This study group, which concludes June 30, will now evolve into a new study group that will focus on the best means of providing education to the parents through the First Steps program. The group will meet with Indiana's First Steps program staff to glean information regarding their approach of setting up two tracks for services provided, one for deaf students and one for hard of hearing students, and attempt to utilize this approach in Kentucky.

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

### **Nursing Home Study Group:**

Ms. Fenwick summarized the groups' progress and advised she had a meeting with Christine Petrina from the Department of Aging and Independent Living Council. They discussed what is needed for a nursing home resident's plan of care (POC) and the minimum data sheet (MDS) utilized to record progress. To ensure better care, a questionnaire is needed when the patient is admitted to the facility to identify accessibility needs. The HLAA chapter in Bardstown recently had two presenters from a nursing home who described what is available to patients in the area. It was realized that the facilities need more education on available technology that would enhance accessibility and a trainer is being scheduled to provide this information to the facilities in that area. Ms. Fenwick also mentioned that Ms. Petrina is working with KCDHH staff to file a Civil Monetary Program (CMP) grant that would provide additional funding to obtain the necessary technology.

### **THE NURSING HOME STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

### **OPEN FORUM:**

Ms. Niehaus' proxy, Ms Dekker, updated the group on the work of the Americorps Program and how it is making a difference in the lives of consumers with behavioral health, developmental or intellectual disabilities or those with substance abuse issues. They work with deaf and hard of hearing consumers to focus on accommodations, build resumes, provide job coaching and placement, budgeting and hygiene training, conduct mock job interviews, teach social skills and appropriate workplace behavior. Currently only five of the eight available Americorps positions are filled and Ms. Dekker asked that members spread the word that slots are available. Workers receive \$1,468 toward educational reimbursement or loan payments for volunteering 450 hours in the program.

Ms. Moore announced that the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) selected Mr. Shane Feldman as its new Executive Director. Ms. Moore was on the recruitment panel and suggested that they consider electing a deaf individual to fill the gap between deaf consumers and the primarily hearing professional interpreters. Mr. Feldman previously worked for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and seems to be "digging in" to make changes to improve the RID organization.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

KCDHH's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be an old-fashioned social/picnic, including a presentation from Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins and Ms. Dana Parker, who will provide a history of how KCDHH was established and evolved. A corn hole and fishing tournament will be held with prizes and KAD will provide food as a fundraiser for the organization. During the event, photographs will be taken and utilized to design a large plexiglas artwork piece depicting the diversity of the community, which will be displayed in the KCDHH conference room.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Four Commissioner terms are expiring effective June 30. Ms. Nina Coyer, a KAD representative is stepping down after serving on the Commission for nine years. KAD will send three nominations for replacement to the Governor's Office. Ms. Marilyn Fenwick, as HLAA representative, is stepping down as well due to personal reasons. HLAA will send three nominations for replacement to the Governor's Office. Mr. Joe Scott, as Service

Provider representative, is stepping down as well due to new job responsibilities. KCDHH will advertise the Service Provider position. Ms. Susan Brown, as Kentucky Speech and Language Association (KSLA) representative, is stepping down too, after serving on the Board for nine years as well. KCDHH will advertise the Audiologist position vacancy.

Per the Commission bylaws, new officers must be elected at this meeting. Ms. Hatzel was nominated for Chair (Ms. Coyer and Ms. Harris) and accepted the nomination. The Board voted and Ms. Hatzel was elected by acclamation. Mr. Bayersdorfer was nominated as Vice-Chair (Ms. Fenwick and Ms. White) and accepted the nomination. The Board voted and Mr. Bayersdorfer was elected by acclamation. Ms. White was nominated as Secretary (Ms. Coyer and Ms. Harris) and accepted the nomination. The Board voted and Ms. White was elected by acclamation. As for the Executive Board, the three new officers will serve along with Ms. Michelle Niehaus. At the next Executive Board meeting on June 13, one additional Executive Board member will be elected.

New Study Groups were recommended for the next fiscal year. The first will focus on both Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and First Steps, to ensure the educational needs of deaf and hard of hearing students in the school system are met. Members of that group include Ms. Becky Bush, Ms. Amy Hatzel, Mr. Wilton McMillan, Ms. Artie Grassman, Ms. Heidi Givens, Ms. Mona McCubbin, Ms. Marcie Ansley, and Ms. Paula Goff. Ms. Nina Coyer nominated Ms. Amy Hatzel to chair this study group and Ms. Hatzel accepted. Ms. Sharon White moved and Ms. Edie Ryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The second recommendation was the continuation of the Nursing Home study group. Participating members will continue and Mr. Bayersdorfer was recommended to chair the group and accepted. Ms. Ryan moved and Ms. Brown seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The third recommendation was to form a new study group that focuses on the provision of videophones in public libraries across the state. Ms. White volunteered to chair the group, which will work with service providers such as Purple, ZVRS, and Sorenson to establish a beta test, along with the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. Members will be recruited and proposed at the July Commission meeting. Mr. Bayersdorfer moved and Ms. Harris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, Thursday, June 13, at KCDHH.
- The 138<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Friday, July 26<sup>t</sup> at the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort.

As there was no other business, **Ms. Sharon White (Ms. Becky Crawford) MOVED TO ADJOURN.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm.