

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
143rd Quarterly Commission Meeting
October 25th, 2014
Newport, Kentucky**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Amy Hatzel, Ms. Kelly Daniel, Mr. John Horsley, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Becky Crawford, Ms. Barbie Harris, Ms. Sharon White, Ms. Jeannie Taylor, Ms. Holly O'Mary, Ms. Michelle Haney and Ms. Michelle Niehaus
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Edie Ryan, and Mr. David Beach
- STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. Virginia Moore, Mr. Blake Noland, Ms. Jessica Endler and Ms. Rowena Holloway
- COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS:** Ms. Rachel Morgan, Ms. Hunter Bryant and Ms. Tracy Lundergan
- VISITORS:** Ms. Rebecca Horsley, Mr. Ron Haynes, Ms. Jean Haynes, Mr. Archie Harris, Mr. Jim Timon, and Mr. Mark Rosey

Ms. Amy Hatzel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Sharon White, Secretary, called roll and welcomed everyone to the 143rd Quarterly Commission Meeting. As a quorum was present, the meeting continued.

Board members reviewed the minutes from the 142nd Commission meeting and approved the revisions with some grammatical corrections that will be submitted to Mr. Noland.

MS. BARBIE HARRIS (Ms. Jeannie Taylor) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 142nd QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING WITH CORRECTIONS. THE MOTION PASSED.

REPORTS

Executive Board:

Due to the E-Board meeting's postponement to two weeks prior to the fall commission meeting, the minutes will be reviewed in the next commission meeting. Ms. Virginia Moore briefly talked about Ms. Betty Timon's passing and her legacy that contributed to the commission board and agency for 20 years. Ms. Moore emphasized that Ms. Timon wanted the commissioners to be more empowered and to be invested in the state. With that reminder, Ms. Timon gave Ms. Moore a hands sculpture, was made by a deaf artist. Ms. Moore said she would bring the sculpture to every meeting as a reminder of Ms. Timon's dedication and passion.

Ms. Hatzel discussed the board's need to fill a vacancy for the Service Provider representative. The commission board member who previously held that position resigned for personal reasons. Ms. Michelle Niehaus discussed reaching out to candidates who may not be familiar with the commission's work, but who can potentially influential in improve the

lives of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Ms. Hatzel advised the board to cast the net out wider for those prospective members, including officials in the emergency services, deaf and hard of hearing housing, nursing homes, and the Kentucky Department of Education. That will help us achieve the important goals for the agency. The board was given until November 25 to compile prospective names for the Service Provider position.

Agency:

Ms. Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed about the agency's budget. Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) will be doing major changes, including charging a fee for every piece of technological equipment that the agency has obtained with its own budget. Ms. Moore, was not sure what the impact would be to KCDHH, but said she would keep the commission board updated on the issue.

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing position was open and received approximately 40 applications, some from Gallaudet, National Technology Institution for the Deaf, and other deaf universities across the country. Unfortunately they were screened out because when those individuals filled out the state application, they did not fill out their employment history. Instead they only attached a resume with the application and as a result of the incomplete application, Personnel rejected them as candidates. Ms. Moore only got six applications and interviewed three candidates, then submitted the names to the Personnel Cabinet and is still waiting for a response. In order to fix the ongoing problem of KCDHH's prospective candidates falling through the cracks, Ms. Moore will be contacting Personnel to discuss doing a vlog explaining the importance of filling out the state's application completely in order to ensure the best opportunity for the candidate's qualifications to be reviewed and for them to be granted interviews.

Ms. Moore attended the National Association for State Agencies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) at the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) Conference to meet, share and discuss ideas. During the meeting, they made a motion that NASADHH should also meet at the Hearing Loss Association of America national conference as well the NAD conference, and the motion was passed. The positive outlook about this is that the NASADHH can meet every year instead of every two years so the group will meet again at the HLAA conference in Saint Louis in September 2015 to foster a stronger partnership with all three organizations and unite them with their pool of resources.

Ms. Moore also attended the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA) and National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) conferences in Maine. During TEDPA, KCDHH was praised as a leader in the equipment distribution program as well as in providing communications access. Other states have been asking how KCDHH was able to get iPads approved as telecommunications devices. At the NASRA conference, representatives from Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand discussed what they are doing in their countries. QR codes (Quick Response) were the hot topic of the conference. Ms. Moore wants to use those codes for KCDHH's printed material. Once people see the QR code, they can scan it from a free downloadable app from their phone to redirect them to the website with all signed and captioned vlogs explaining the information on the printed materials. Ms. Moore also mentioned about the new technology at the conference, GoogleGlass. A person wearing the GoogleGlass can have their conversations captioned and projected right onto the lens to read. Ms. Moore is hoping to

partner with one of the executive directors in other state to do a pilot program with GoogleGlass in various museums and other public facilities.

Ms. Moore was asked by the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to submit our agency's 2015 legislative agenda and point out any new goals for 2015. Education continues to be on that agenda. KCDHH met with KDE and a recommendation was suggested to adjust the General Physician form to include more information with regards to the hearing screening. The board will be updated on the results of working with KDE and the General Physician form.

DeaFestival was a huge success and all of the grassroots individuals surely noticed the difference in the program schedule this year, with programs that did not overlap, giving participants more opportunity to attend all of the programs. Ms. Hatzel applauded the partnership with WorldFest to show the correlation between deaf community's language and culture the other linguistic cultures of the world. The only major criticism of the event is that Kentucky Center of the Arts is getting too small for the artist and vendor booths. The main "traffic" area was bottlenecked and people were standing in the way, making it harder for attendees to see the booths. Other locations for 2016 will be considered. Presentation of the Pay it Forward Award was a huge success. Using FaceTime technology, Ms. Betty Timon, the award recipient, was able to see the presentation.

The Kentucky State Fair continues to be a real benefit for the agency, thanks to the partnership with Sprint and Heuser Hearing Institution. It generated 375 new requests for advocacy, understanding with their hearing loss, and prominently for Telecommunication Access Program (TAP).

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ

Finance:

Ms. Moore discussed the agency's finance report. Consumers are still on a waiting list for TAP. Funds for TAP are on target up to the very penny. Ms. Moore will request a one-time allocation increase to help out with the waiting list as the number of requests are decreasing following a large influx of iPad applications. The general funds are utilized efficiently but are tight.

THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) Update:

The TAP department is examining applications from speech-impaired individuals very carefully since that equipment is the most expensive due to speech-related apps. TAP personnel have to call every speech-pathologist to confirm if the applicant is able to utilize the iPad for communication purposes to be eligible for the telecommunication device, not for the smart board to assist with communication.

Ms. Moore reported that the TAP Advisory Board has a vacancy for a hard of hearing individual. Also the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Board is looking for

individuals to fill three vacancies. The board needs a hard of hearing individual, a speech-impaired individual and a deaf-blind individual to round out representation on the body. Ms. Moore asked the commission board to encourage any interested individuals meeting those criteria to apply for the TAP or TRS advisory boards.

THE TAP WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

The K-12 Educational Study Group:

Ms. Hatzel said the study group discussed revamping the school physical form without adding another page to the existing form, which the Kentucky Department of Education said would save money on the printing cost. The form the study group proposed consisted with of a new box with information related to hearing screening instead of just one line with boxes to check for “yes” and “no.” Also on the end of the physical form, there is a bullet list of what doctors should review with the family regarding a child’s health and well-being. The study group is proposing noise exposure be added to that list. The next plan is to do a follow-up meeting with KDE to see if they will accept the new format.

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

Access to Videophones in Public Libraries Study Group:

Ms. White reported on Lexington Public Library’s announcement party on October 17, a small number of Central Kentucky’s deaf community attended due to a conflicting event in downtown Lexington on the same day. However it was beneficial for the library staff to be more aware of the equipment, be educated on how it works and understand the importance of the public access videophone.

THE ACCESS TO VIDEOPHONES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Captioning in Sport Venues Study Group

Mr. David Bayersdorfer reported that the study group will begin the project by giving out premier survey/questionnaires to contact the venues to see where their status is on the captioning; whether they are providing the captioning in the right places or even providing the captioning at all. Also to find out if their purpose of having captioning is to only do promotional services in between time-outs, innings, or during the game. The study group is hoping to reach out to Churchill’s Downs and Keeneland to see where they stand with captioning and potentially help them improve the services before their respective spring meets.

THE CAPTIONING IN SPORT VENUES STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Niehaus announced the upcoming play, “Tribes,” at Actors Theatre of Louisville. The play is about the journey of an individual who is hard of hearing who meets woman who is a

child of deaf adults (CODA). The interpreted performances will be November 29 and December 7. Ms. Moore informed the commission board that a KCDHH staff member was serving as a cultural consultant for the production. The role of cultural consultant is to educate the actors about deaf culture and the deaf community. Also Ms. Niehaus announced that the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities and the Center for Accessible Living were co-sponsoring a workshop November 6 in Louisville to explain how to enroll for the health insurance via Kynect and to explain the differences between Medicare and private insurance.

Mr. Horsley shared two stories about his own successful efforts at self-advocacy. One situation involved captions on TVs in all hotel rooms, lobbies and restaurants. He contacted the Department of Justice's mediator and lawyer to write up a justification to have the closed captions turned on at all the times and was successful at convincing those officials to issue the justification. Another situation involved the company where Mr. Horsley works. The company asked him to be part of a video that promotes diversity, but the video was not captioned. Mr. Horsley let his employer know that they could not promote diversity on the video if the medium was not fully accessible and advised the company to at least have a transcript attached to the video.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hatzel indicated the letter to the board of the Kentucky Department of Education would need to be tabled in lieu of revising the General Physical form.

Ms. Hatzel reported that the Executive Director's evaluation has been completed and presented to Ms. Moore for her file.

NEW BUSINESS

No voting required for the Service Provider board position as it was already discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Hatzel moved to vote for the board position at the January meeting.

After recommendation from Executive board, Ms. Taylor (Ms. White) moved to move the 144th Quarterly Commission meeting to Frankfort on January 23rd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Staff Ornament Exchange Party will be held prior to E-Board meeting on Friday December 12, 10:00am – 12:00pm
- The next Executive Board meeting will be held Friday December 12, 1:00pm -3:00pm pm at KCDHH in Frankfort
- The 144th Quarterly Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 1:00 pm –4:00 pm at Frankfort Transportation Cabinet

MS. DANIEL (Ms. Harris) MOVED TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.