

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
150th Quarterly Commission Meeting
July 22, 2016
Frankfort, Kentucky**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Amy Hatzel, Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, Ms. Jeannie Taylor (proxy Ron Haynes), Ms. Edie Ryan, Ms. Barbie Harris, Ms. Holly O'Mary, and Ms. Gerry Gordon-Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Kelly Daniel, Ms. Joy Kiser, and Mr. Buddy Hoskinson

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Virginia Moore and Ms. Tashina Crowe

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Ms. Rachel Rodgers, Ms. Marva Johnson and Ms. Tracy Lundergan

VISITORS: Ms. Jean Haynes

Ms. Hatzel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m. and called roll, due to Ms. Daniel's absence and recognized Mr. Haynes as Ms. Taylor's proxy. The board accepted the proxy and reviewed the 149th Commission minutes.

MS. COYER (Ms. Gordon-Brown) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 149th QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel brought to the Boards' attention that this is our 150th Commission Board meeting (37.5 years) and commended KCDHH's predecessors for founding this agency. Ms. Hatzel then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Becky Crawford, Commissioner, who passed away in May. A replacement for her position has been requested from AARP.

Ms. Hatzel asked the board to review the Executive Board minutes from June 24th.

MS. HARRIS (Ms. Coyer) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

REPORTS

Executive Board

Ms. Hatzel reviewed the agenda and noted that the majority of items in the Executive Board report, including study groups and town hall meetings, were included in the minutes.

Agency

Ms. Moore acknowledged that Ms. Crawford's legacy would always be with us, along with other members we have lost in the past.

Ms. Moore continued by discussing the fact that all agencies' regulations are being reviewed within their Cabinet's per the Governor's request to streamline state governance and simplify policy and procedures across the Commonwealth. KCDHH has no changes at this time but a review is in progress.

Ms. Moore continued the report by discussing the first Deaf Grassroots Movement (DGM) Rally which took place in Frankfort on May 3rd. KCDHH was involved with the organizers of our

state DGM and attended a rally at the state capitol speaking on the capitol steps to a group of deaf and hard of hearing constituents from across the Commonwealth. Education and leadership was the central focus of the rally. Other rallies were also held across the United States on the same date. Because of KCDHH's knowledge of legislative issues we plan to work together when introducing the Deaf Child Bill of Rights (DCBR) in Kentucky.

Ms. Moore reported that while attending the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) conference she also attended the National Association of State Administrators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) meeting where other states reported on their own DGM rally. Also representatives from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) discussed the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) moratorium being lifted effective July 1. However, NIC testing will not be administered until at least September. KCDHH will keep on top of this change to ensure interpreters again have the opportunity to become certified.

As a member of the NASADHH board Ms. Moore met with Gallaudet's President during the NAD conference where several issues were discussed including: Interpreting certification, funneling of deaf teachers and students through a pipeline from Gallaudet to residential schools and the lack of deaf leadership in most communities. A roundtable meeting with President Corando and NASADHH members will be held this fall.

Ms. Moore remarked that she had attended required ethics training and will provide a refresher for the board, since there are several new members.

Ms. Moore informed the board that the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) is moving forward with setting up another cabinet for constituents to test equipment at the Carl D. Perkins Center in Eastern Kentucky. Also, Hamilton Relay won the state Relay Provider contract and is working with us to set up outreach events and they will also support DeaFestival.

Ms. Moore next discussed the meeting held on July 21st with Secretary Hal Heiner and three high ranking members of his staff. This review has been ongoing since the change in governance and KCDHH was given an agenda to prepare for the meeting. Several things were discussed including the importance of the KCDHH building and its accessibility to the public, partnerships with other agencies (State Police, Veteran's Affairs, Community Based Services and Mental Health Services) and information we distribute from these collaborations. Also discussed was the plan to send out staff to various regions within the state to provide more one-on-one contact with constituents. During these outreaches staff would also meet with stakeholders such as hospitals, doctors, police, lawyers, court officials and other community partners to advise them of the resources KCDHH can provide. Sec. Heiner was very supportive of this regional based proposal. He then asked about the difference in KCDHH and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Ms. Moore responded that KCDHH serves consumers from the cradle to the grave, not just work or school oriented individuals. Sec. Heiner asked if KCDHH could partner with VR to draw down more federal funds that were lost because of budgetary cuts to VR. KCDHH does not have the staff to manage federal funding reporting requirements. However, discussions with VR may continue as to how another mode of partnership could be considered to access federal funding.

Ms. Moore provided the Secretary with a binder of information that included our mission, statutes, regulations, program objectives and strategic plan and advised that KCDHH is a completely personnel driven agency that serves all 700,000 deaf and hard of hearing consumers across the state. The Sec. seemed to be impressed with the information provided and left the meeting with notes to consider for future objectives.

Ms. Moore continued the agency report by reminding the board of the nine-percent budget cut KCDHH is experiencing for FY 16-17 and how the 15th position funding was cut to meet the agency's budget cut. Members discussed the possibility of hiring a grant writer to bring in funds and Ms. Moore explained the pros and cons of this approach with the main barrier being lack of staff to dedicate to grant writing. Discussion from members was had about the possibility of funding hearing aids and other options such as pushing insurance companies to cover "medically necessary" devices. This is a huge topic that is ever on the radar of KCDHH and partner organizations such as the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), which will fight this necessity at the national level. KCDHH plans to produce a vlog later this year, instructing constituents on how to fight this battle with the insurance companies in Kentucky.

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

The K-12 Educational Study Group:

Ms. Hatzel reported on the study groups' performance for the past year and stated that the group has submitted a new proposal to continue the study group for FY 17. The group met the goals set forth in last year's proposal, made strides in awareness, brought information and collected data on what types of hearing screenings are being performed. The group finished the First Steps Training and continues to work with them to improve services for children 0-3. One of the new goals of the continuing study group is to have a stakeholders group established so they can focus on the needs of all students, if it be mainstreamed or residential, to bring more qualified deaf educators to the state. Discussion was held regarding challenges for empowering parents in ARC meetings. Ms. Niehaus noted that her department is addressing this concern by offering to train Family Peer Support Specialists to attend meetings with parents of children with behavioral health issues. Ms. Moore acknowledges that KCDHH will advocate and ARC meetings as well if parents request assistance.

Ms. Coyer added the idea of copying the model used by the Washington State School for the Deaf where a variety of stakeholders go out and become a part of the community to create success. Ms. Ryan expressed concern that the families are unaware of the benefits from contacting KCDHH. Ms. Niehaus suggested meeting with those closely related to the situation and seeing how KCDHH can work with them to better distribute information.

Services for Seniors Study Group:

Ms. Niehaus updated the board on the progress of this new study group and summarized the first meeting and the stakeholders involved, which is an impressive list of agencies that work with the aging population. The group's approach is to reach out to deaf and hard of hearing consumers over 50 to determine the priority of their needs. The group set a date to meet with Louisville constituents and will also meet with a Lexington group in the future. There are three groups of stakeholders: the seniors, their caregivers and providers.

Access to Videophones in Public Libraries / Captioning in Sport Venues:

Ms. Hatzel spoke on behalf of the closing documents provided regarding both study groups.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Hatzel updated the board regarding appointments by the Governor for the Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD), Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA), and Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) seats. Nothing has been received to date. Ms. Moore stated that during her meeting with the Sec. he provided her with a contact to potentially speed up the process. We have asked for three nominees from AARP to present to the

Governor for selection of a representative for that vacancy as well. Current members continue to serve until appointments are made by the Governor.

New Business:

The board was informed that Ms. Gordon-Brown has agreed to finish out Ms. Crawford's term as the TAP Advisory Board Chair.

The board read over the nomination for the Parent Representative and discussed the fact that Mr. George Tunstall IV is the parent of two children at KSD and heavily involved in community activities, including the DGM. He should make a great contribution to the board.

MS. COYER (Ms. Ryan) MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel asked the Board to consider voting on a request made by Ms. Coyer to Chair a study group focusing on a patient's bill of rights and their preference of communication access in hospitals and doctor's offices throughout the Commonwealth.

MS. RYAN (Ms. Harris) MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE STUDY GROUP. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Moore spoke to some of the changes that had been made to the original document of the strategic plan before the board for approval.

MS. GORDON-BROWN (Ms. Coyer) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE STRATEGIC PLAN, WITH MINOR EDITS AS DISCUSSED. THE MOTION PASSED.

Board Open Forum:

Ms. Hatzel updated the board on a situation previously discussed regarding a custody debate and how the courts had ruled in the family's favor. Hopefully this will set a precedent for future actions.

Ms. Moore discussed the upcoming DeaFestival and showed the video vignettes that staff filmed and posted to our website. Some conflicts with obtaining visual artists were discussed as Michigan also hosts a festival the same weekend for three days. Staff has worked very hard to produce this year's event and Ms. Moore encourages board members to attend.

Ms. Moore also asked board members to volunteer to work the KCDHH booth at the state fair, especially since it occurs just days before DeaFestival, and we need booth volunteers.

In honor of KCDHH's 150th board meeting the Louisville Association for the Deaf attended the meeting, and provided food to all in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Executive Board meeting will be held at KCDHH, with date and time TBA.
- The 151st Quarterly Commission meeting will be held Friday, October 14, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. with the location TBA.

MS. GORDON-BROWN (Ms. Harris) MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.