

**Telecommunications Access Program Advisory Board Meeting
April 20, 2023
KCDHH Conference Room**

Members Present: Ms. Gerry Gordon-Brown, Ms. Christa Cervantes, Mr. Lewis Fowler, Ms. Mindy McGirt, Ms. Shirl Dalton, Mr. Bradley Green, Mr. Jeb Pinney

Members Absent: Mr. Ronnie Campbell, Mr. Tyler Campbell, Ms. Amy Hatzel, Ms. Marilyn Fenwick

Staff Present: Ms. Jessica Endler Smith, Mr. O.J. Disney

Guests: Ms. Peggy Ward

Communication

Facilitators: Ms. Shannon Grider, Ms. Rita Zirnheld-Anderson, and Ms. Laura Kogut

The Chair, Ms. Gordon-Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m., and Mr. Disney called the roll. Ms. Gordon-Brown asked each member to introduce themselves in person since it is in person. Ms. Gordon-Brown informed the board that there is a quorum. Each member introduced themselves one by one and what they represented on the TAP Advisory Board. Ms. Gordon-Brown requested the Board to review the minutes of October 17, 2019, and October 22, 2020, meetings.

MS. MCGIRT (Ms. Dalton) MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION PASSED.

Reports:

Ms. Smith provided members with a budget report on the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) activities from July to present. TAP processed orders from July through March. Ms. Smith shared the statistical report on the TAP equipment that has been ordered.

Ms. Smith reported that there is a waiting list of 71 applicants from April for TAP equipment.

Ms. Dalton asked a question about the Electrolarynx Telephone that is not listed on the equipment and Ms. Smith explained there have been contract issues and they are focused on trying to get that fixed. Ms. Smith acknowledged that there has been a big need for the Electrolarynx Telephone due to tobacco cancer and the coal mining population and hoping to get that resolved soon.

Ms. Smith stated that they have had no issues in the financial department but there is still a supply issue getting the wireless and signaler systems out to those constituents. Mr. Disney updated the group on outreach efforts completed by TAP staff and the rest of KCDHH staff since the last meeting. Mr. Disney updated the TAP Advisory Board

about the Kentucky HEARS Project, run by Heuser Hearing Institute, and explained the Project's goals. There has been an established relationship between Heuser Hearing Institute and KCDHH to participate in outreach in rural areas to conduct free hearing screenings and a KCDHH information booth to demonstrate equipment during this outreach.

Ms. Smith reported that the Serene Bed Shaker is not going to be available anymore due to the manufacturer and the App has been removed from the App Store on iPhones. She also reported that the main unit of the CA-360 Signaler System is going to be replaced with a newer main unit.

Ms. Smith also informed the Board that KCDHH has established a partnership with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) here in Frankfort. They were also advised on the equipment for the weather alert for the deaf and hard of hearing as there has been an increase in weather disasters in Kentucky.

New Business:

Ms. Smith reported that there are three member's terms expiring. She presented a certificate of appreciation award to Mindy McGirt and Lewis Fowler. She will mail a certificate to Marilyn Fenwick.

Announcements:

- Ms. Smith announced that she will advertise three vacant TAP Board seats, including two hard of hearing and one deaf representative seat.
- The next TAP Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 21, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Location TBD

MS. MCGIRT (Ms. Dalton) MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED. Ms. Gordon-Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.