

Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board Meeting
October 8, 2015
KCDHH Conference Room

Members Present: Ms. Becky Crawford, Mr. Jim Timon, Mr. Jeremiah Ziehr, Mr. Lewis Fowler, Mr. Johnny Lawson, Ms. Marilyn Fenwick and Mr. Jim Stevens

Members Absent: Mr. Tyler Campbell, Ms. Mindy McGirt and Ms. Amy Hatzel

Staff Present: Mr. Cole Zulauf, Ms. Jessica Endler Smith, and Ms. Rowena Holloway

Guests: Ms. Emma Danielson, Ms. Shirley Lawson, Mr. Ron Haynes, and Ms. Jean Haynes

Communication

Facilitators: Ms. Shannon Grider, Ms. Molly Howard, and Ms. Laura Kogut

The Chair, Ms. Becky Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m. Ms. Becky Crawford informed members that Mr. Tyler Campbell is now the Executive Director for the Kentucky Telecom Association, and replaces Mr. Forrest Skaggs on this board. Ms. Smith called roll and as there was a quorum, the meeting continued. Minutes from the April 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed and Mr. Lawson (Ms. Fenwick) moved to accept the minutes with minor corrections. Mr. Lawson asked that we take a moment to honor the passing of Mr. Bill Wilhelm, who passed away in May. Mr. Wilhelm was part of the consumer base that originally established the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) here at KCDHH.

Mr. Zulauf provided the board members with a statistical report of TAP activities since our last meeting. TAP has ordered 346 wireless devices, 365 landline phones, and 225 signalers. TAP has replaced the Bellman Signaler Package with the Serene CA-360 and CA-380 signaler packages that includes smoke/carbon monoxide signalers.

Attendees discussed the iAccessibility.com website created by the iPad vendor to assist consumers with questions they have on operating their devices. Videos are signed, voiced and captioned and cover multiple topics from how to sign on, to how to operate more complex apps. We try to have trainings when possible, but most consumers won't travel to attend. Suggest that groups of individuals more familiar with the iPad operations assist others in their community. Some libraries have courses on how to use the equipment as well and this might be another resource, especially for seniors.

Members discussed the annual report to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), including the TAP financial report which explained that funds are on target for the year and ordering is being done timely. An allotment increase was received to alleviate the waiting list so processing of applications and ordering of equipment is back on track.

Ms. Holloway updated the group on the contract bids and the delay due to a protest filed by another vendor. However, the original award was upheld by Finance and contracts have been finalized. We also completed sole source contracts for some specialized equipment that we offer. The CapTel 2400i has been added to our program offerings.

Ms. Endler showed member's photos of each piece of equipment now included in the program and described the population it is intended to serve. A new brochure has been designed showing the available equipment and includes the decibel level for amplified/captioned phones so consumers can better decide which piece of equipment best serves their needs. Some questions about specific devices were asked and answered and members agreed the current selection of equipment covers the needs of most deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired consumers. Ms. Holloway explained to members that consumers are only allowed to apply for equipment every four years unless their disability has significantly changed, so some people are applying for the new signalers but are not eligible for them as the ones offered now are basically just a model change because the previous ones weren't available any more. In some situations we are allowing individuals to apply for the wireless signaler if they have not previously received one and need it to go with an iPad or iPhone issued through the program. But these are only done on a case by case basis.

Ms. Holloway and Ms. Moore attended the National Association of State Relay Administration (NASRA) Conference which provides us with updates of actions being taken at the federal level that impact the relay service or our programs. Ms. Holloway and Mr. Zuluaf also attended the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program Administrator's' (TEDPA) conference, where they were able to see all the vendors and new equipment offered and network with other states. Kentucky continues to be a leader in TAP and other states have reached out to our staff questioning how we obtained funding for wireless equipment, and how we added it to our program.

TAP staff has completed several outreach opportunities since April, including a big push at the Kentucky State Fair, where we received 427 requests just in ten days. Other outreach opportunities included the Northern Kentucky Senior expo, several community health fairs, Barbecue on the River in western Kentucky, Deaf Nation expo, and the Hearing Loss Association of America biennial conference, where iPad training was provided to about 20 individuals.

Ms. Danielson, Sprint Relay representative, announced that Sprint has been serving our community for 25 years now and has had many new innovations in that time and looks forward to working with us in the future. Sprint is looking for another part time person to serve Kentucky and any recommendations should be forwarded to Ms. Danielson.

The next TAP Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 21st 2016, in conjunction with the Relay Service meeting. Members were asked to turn in their travel vouchers to Ms. Endler. As there were no further items for discussion, Mr. Ziehr (Mr. Timon) moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.