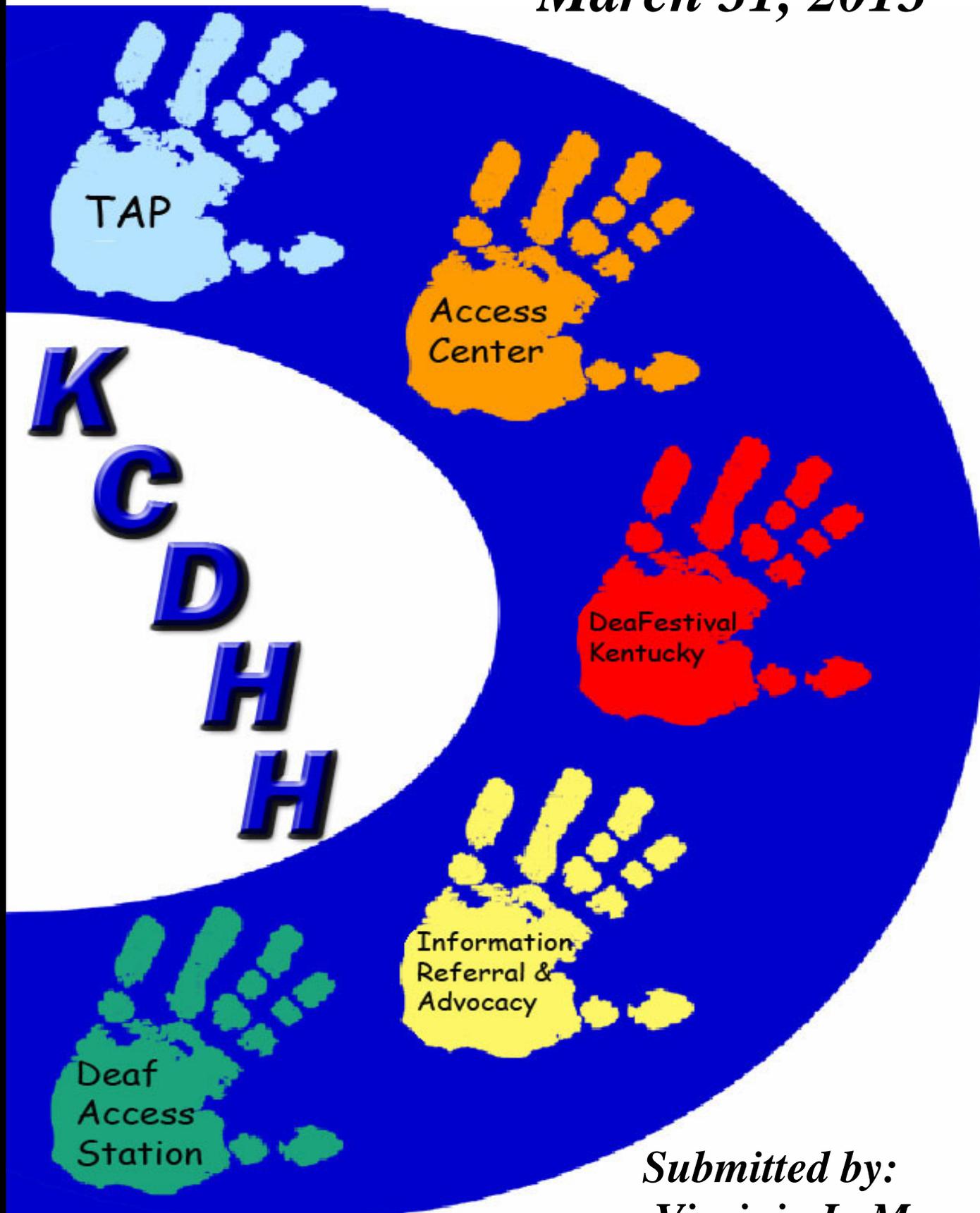


Agency Report *January 1 through*
March 31, 2013



Submitted by:
Virginia L. Moore

KCDHH Quarterly Activities

January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013

Meeting with the Governor

The Executive Director, representing KCDHH, was invited by the Governor to meet with him and Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Joseph U. Meyer to provide an overview of what KCDHH does, and to discuss the growing population of deaf and hard of hearing consumers in the state. She also advised the Governor of the community's major concerns, such as education for our children, nursing home considerations and the high cost of hearing aids for adults. The Governor was amazed at the number of deaf and hard of hearing within Kentucky and was shocked at the high cost of hearing aids.

Personnel

KCDHH has received more than 250 applications for the Document Processing Specialist I position and is currently reviewing and interviewing applicants. That position will primarily be part of the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) and will be part of the outreach team for TAP, with other duties as assigned throughout the agency. The Interpreter I position is still posted and will close in April, when reviews will begin to hire that position as well.

Legislation and Regulations

KCDHH watches all legislative actions throughout each session and carefully monitors those that could affect the deaf and hard of hearing community. The 2013 Legislative Session was only 30 days (meeting days) and did not deal with budgetary shortfalls but was focused on the issues at hand. One in particular was reforming the pension system for public employees, which was currently \$30 billion in debt and losing ground, and which was affecting the state's credit rating. Although ideas on how to accomplish this monumental task differed within the Senate and the House, the Governor proclaimed that, a resolution would be reached or he would call a special session. Finally, as the last days came to a close Senate Bill 2 passed a resolution to give future employees a type of 401(k) retirement fund while maintaining funding for the structure of current employees who are not impacted by the new-style plan. The companion-funding bill House Bill 440 generates about \$100 million in addition to yearly revenue for the pension fund. It includes minor changes to the state tax code and stepped up tax

compliance, along with federal tax changes, to generate the funds needed to keep the pension plan stable.

Senate Bill 9 became a concern for some of our constituents, as it would impose another layer of administration before a lawsuit could be filed in a nursing home. The bill died in the House after a compelling argument on the Senate floor by Sen. Ray Jones III (D-Pikeville). A bill was also proposed to extend the terms of the Executive Office an additional year to coincide with Presidential elections to encourage more turn out at the polls for local elections, and another that would reduce childcare reimbursements for low-income families. Both died in the last days of the session.

In summary, bills that did pass during this session included; allowing school districts to raise the high school dropout age, revisions to the “pill mill” bill passed last session that were found to be burdensome on providers, and making absentee voting easier for military serving overseas. Hemp farming as an alternative crop passed, but is pending necessary federal action before it can be allowed. Also passed were bills to strengthen investigation into child deaths, protect victims of human trafficking, allowing religions organizations to take actions motivated by a *sincerely held religious belief* which cannot be infringed upon without compelling evidence. A bill boosting governmental transparency and accountability by strengthening the ethics rules within the statewide special taxing districts also passed.

As part of our legislative responsibilities, KCDHH sent Senator Neal a letter informing him that a license plate with the designation of “deaf or hearing impaired” was something the community was not in favor of. A newspaper article in January sparked attention to the possibility of this type of designation being made to assist police officers during traffic violations. Senator Neal was advised that KCDHH had developed and distributed Visor Cards in partnership with the Kentucky State Police for this purpose, and consumers tended to prefer this mode of communication with police officers rather than a label on their license plates.

KCDHH 30th Anniversary Celebration

The KCDHH 30th anniversary celebration will be held May 18 at the Salato wildlife education center in Frankfort. There will be food, provided by the Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) as a fundraiser, and lots of fun and games. Corn hole, the state’s official game, tournaments will be held and two sets

of corn hole boards will be awarded as prizes for the winners. A fishing competition will also be held, with a small prize for the person that catches the biggest fish. A silent auction will be held, with assistance from other organizations in the community. A platform for consumers to discuss issues of concern, similar to a town hall meeting will be provided and a presentation on the accomplishments of the Commission over the last 30 years will be held, with a small dedication to Mr. Jim Scoggins for his work to enhance the accomplishments of KCDHH. Previous commissioners, directors and employees will all be invited, as well as the public and the community. It should be a fun day of socialization for everyone. A v-log has been posted to the KCDHH website, explaining the activities and events for the 30th anniversary celebration in American Sign Language (ASL).

Smart 911 in Kentucky

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Internal Policy Analyst III and Information Office Supervisor met with the Executive Director of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Enhanced 911 Center. The Executive Director is taking the lead in applying for a Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) grant to secure three years of funding for Smart 911 to all 911 centers across the state. Smart 911 is a system in which a 911 operator, upon receiving a call, can have access to more information than just the caller's phone number and address. This information can include details like chronic medical conditions, medicine allergies, how many bedrooms are in the house. The amount of information in a person's Smart 911 profile is up to the individual, and participation in Smart 911 is strictly voluntary. Currently, five Kentucky counties have Smart 911 in place: Anderson, Daviess, Fayette, Franklin and Jessamine. KCDHH wrote a letter of endorsement for the grant. The agency's position was that Smart 911 could be a valuable tool for deaf and hard of hearing households. If a 911 operator knows ahead of time that the caller has a hearing loss, appropriate accommodations can be arranged as soon as possible. The Smart 911 profile for a deaf or hard of hearing user can also indicate a preference to communicate via text messaging. In counties where Smart 911 already exists there is a feature called "call then text," in which a user can dial 911, and if their profile indicates a preference for text, the 911 operator will reply via text messaging. The Federal government has passed regulations that will require 911 to text to be in place nationwide by 2014.

Kentucky Arts Council Visits KCDHH Office

On Feb. 14, KCDHH collaborated with the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) to produce short videos of five artists with disabilities working in different art media. The purpose of the vignettes was to promote the artists' work, explore their careers, and, by example, encourage other artists in their professional endeavors. The KCDHH Chair was interviewed about her teaching career and how she discovered that she enjoyed and had a talent for storytelling. The Executive Director was also interviewed.

HLAK Conference Planning

The Executive Director and the Internal Policy Analyst III met several times during the quarter with the core group of representatives planning the Hearing Loss Association of Kentucky (HLAK) conference scheduled for July 19-20 in Louisville. Members discussed reducing the registration fee to allow for more registrants, providing a free alarm clock to the first 50 registrations as an incentive (donated by a sponsor), entertainment, presenters, workshops, the program book schedule and sponsorship receipts and other opportunities to be pursued. HLAK members will take this information to the full committee and sub groups and present it for approval or other recommendations. KCDHH was able to secure the high-profile comedian/actress, Kathy Buckley, to provide the entertainment on Saturday night during the conference.

KYRID Conference

The Executive Director, Internal Policy Analyst III and Executive Staff Interpreter attended the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) Spring Conference on March 22 and 23 in Frankfort. Once again, KCDHH continued its partnership with the state conference. The conference had more than 150 attendees and has been recorded as the largest attended conference to date. The conference offered continuing education credits (CEUs) in a range of categories such as education, legal, mental health and theatrical. Interpreters attend the conference to obtain CEU's required by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the Kentucky Licensure Board.

KCDHH GOALS



KCDHH Goal I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including communication services and access to human services.

National Certification Opportunities

As a supersite for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), KCDHH hosted three performance test dates for seven individuals and two SC:L written examinations during this quarter. KCDHH has been working with RID to implement the free examinations for candidates in Kentucky who qualify. KCDHH has sent paperwork to RID to start the program but KCDHH is still waiting for a response. KCDHH also has been working with the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) to provide free Sign Language Proficiency Interviews (SLPI).

Access Center Assignments

Requests	Filled /pending Assignments	Cancelled Assignments	Interpreting Hours	# of contacts required to fill assignments
AC: Request for Interpreting	120	7	716	13
AC: Request for Captioning	11	0	25	4
AC: Request for Videoconference	0	0	0	0

Telecommunications Access Program Wireless Update:

The Internal Policy Analyst III, Program Coordinator and Administrative Specialist III, conducted a training meeting with Sprint outreach staff to teach them how to explain the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) and to assist consumers with completing an application and instructing them on the documentation needed to be approved. The meeting went well and Sprint staff was given manuals for follow-ups.

TAP plans to bundle the tactile signaler currently offered to the blind and visually impaired, with smoke alarms and bed shakers to provide communication that is more accessible for deaf and hard of hearing consumers during home emergencies. A vision loss will not be required to receive the devices in the future, as they are a benefit to all deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The addition of this equipment

is in the process of being approved by the Finance Department and will be added to the TAP as soon as it is approved.

The Executive Director and TAP staff conducted a meeting with staff from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) to discuss the TAP records that still need to be scanned, the timeline for getting them done and the cost of completing this project. All TAP records should be scanned into the database by June 30 and TAP staff will handle current scanning of ongoing records as part of the daily routine of processing applications. Once scanning is completed and downloaded to the KCDHH database, the paper copies will be archived.

The Internal Policy Analyst III, with assistance from the Interpreter Referral Specialist and the Sprint Relay representative provided comments to AT&T for updates to the Disability Section of the telephone directory. This customer guide is used both in hardcopy and online to refer consumers with disabilities to the appropriate entity for assistance with acquiring appropriate accommodations to access telecommunications.

KCDHH provided comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling on Captioned telephone usage through internet protocol (IP). Usage numbers have been escalating and the FCC intends to take immediate action to reduce the usage before the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) funding is threatened more severely. The ruling will prohibit companies from providing phones at no cost to the consumer utilizing the particular IP based service, mandate that consumers be registered before approval to obtain the device, and manufacture the device with the captions button automatically programmed to "off" so that consumers must push an "on" button to activate the captioning service. This will minimize the number of minutes charged to TRS that were not being utilized by a deaf or hard of hearing consumer, but rather inadvertently being utilized by hearing family members or friends placing calls without need of the captioning service. The rule was passed on an emergency basis by the FCC and became effective March 15. KCDHH notified our constituents of this change via an eblitz and an announcement on Facebook.

TAP Outreach with AmeriCorps volunteers

We have noticed a drop in number of TAP applications during the past few months, which has prompted an enhanced public relations (PR) plan and expanded outreach. Posters and tabletop advertisements have been developed and are in the process of being printed. Once completed these PR products will be distributed to

audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, speech and language pathologists' offices and several other local stores and contact points such as health departments. The posters and tabletop displays have a card the consumer can take and request information about TAP or any of the services provided by KCDHH. The TAP Program Coordinator, Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III met with AmeriCorps volunteers on March 27 and began making contact with these offices to ensure they understand the purpose of the advertisements and will utilize them in their offices and places of business. This PR effort is geared to expand the outreach of TAP across the state, regardless of urban or rural area. AmeriCorps volunteers worked all day to assist with phone calls and research to complete this outreach project.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) report on advertising:

This graph shows the means of contact consumer's note when requesting TAP applications, which gives us a better idea of the success of various advertising modes. These numbers reflect a count that began Jan. 24 and ended March 30. Not all consumers that receive applications return them during the same time period so number do not match the totals for applications processed and pieces of equipment distributed during the same quarterly report.

Method of Referral	Number Received
Applied before	23
TV advertisement	152
Outreach	3
Friend referred	51
Website	25
Newsletter	0
Facebook	3
Referral from another agency	29
Other	35
TOTAL	321

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Overall Activities

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
TAP: Applying for STE	140	176	85

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

The Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Board of Directors meeting in Louisville on March 28. The Fifth Third (5/3) bank representative provided an update, with no remarkable problems and members conducted regular business. The Financial report was reviewed and a discussion ensued about the amount of funds currently tied up in delinquent loans and how some consumers seem to assume this is a grant program rather than a loan program. Repossessions and collections are being pursued as appropriate to curb this perception. KATLC will provide information for an article in a disability magazine that will be released in April. Members agreed that a retreat would be required this summer to discuss the bank agreement renewal, changes required to the application, regulation changes and investment discussion.

Nursing Home Study Group

On Jan. 11, a core group met on the possibility of applying for the Civil Money Penalty (CMP) grant. The full study group met on January 22 and the full report is provided in a separate document within the Commission meeting packet of information.



KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a hub of current information from local, state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.

Public Relations Output

The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by the agency. **10,731** PR items were distributed during the quarter as follows:

Date	Type of Communication	Topic of Public Relations Announcements and Outreach Activities	# Items Distributed
Jan. 29	E-blast	Severe weather warning	1,317
Feb. 1	Outreach	KSD Pancake Breakfast. items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. Publications, 30 th Anniversary Flyers and Hand &Voices Request Form	500

Feb. 15	E-blitz	In memory of Jim Scoggins	3,197
Feb. 22	E-blitz	Announcing redesigned KCDHH website	3,223
Feb. 23	Outreach	Green River Fire fighters Association Officers School- items disseminated included KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. Publications, 30 th Anniversary Flyers, PR items and Banner	520
March 14	Outreach	HLAK Lexington Meeting – items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. Publications, 30 th Anniversary Flyers, PR items, Pwr Pt packet	120
March 14	Outreach	Nursing Home Admin, Hazard K- items disseminated included, items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. Publications, 30 th Anniversary Flyers, PR items, PwrPt packets	1,250
March 21	Outreach	Bowling Green Homemaker Club,– PR items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. KCDHH Publications	75
March 22	Outreach	Hands Alive - items disseminated included, items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. Publications, 30 th Anniversary Flyers, PR items 30 PowerPoint Presentation Packets.	240
March 22	Outreach	KVEC-Transition Fair - items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, DOS, library flyers, PR Items. KCDHH Publications,	240
March 26	Outreach	Pearl Outreach Service-items disseminated included, KCDHH flyers, TAP flyers, library flyers, Visor Card flyers. KCDHH ICE Cards	50
TOTAL			10,731

Kentucky Speech and Hearing Association Conference

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky Speech and Hearing Association (KSHA) Conference held in Lexington Feb. 28 and March 1. KCDHH provided information at the booth, answered questions from consumers and professionals attending the conference, and took requests for TAP applications.

Nursing Home Study Group Impact

On March 14 the Executive Staff Advisor and Interpreter Referral Specialist presented at the Professionals Elder Abuse Awareness Conference at Hazard Community & Technical College. The goal of this training is to educate all professionals on elder abuse as well as increase community awareness and individual knowledge of issues surrounding elder abuse and the aging population. The Executive Staff Advisor is working with the 15 Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living agencies to provide education credits to professionals who work with the aging population.

Facebook Hits

KCDHH had 982 fans on Facebook during the last quarter. The topics of the FB postings have been analyzed below and reflect the number of hits for each topic.

Date	Topic of Facebook Posting	# of people who read this
Jan. 4	Posting about Gallaudet President wins Leadership Award	133
Jan. 4	New Year Greetings	275
Jan. 9	Posting about Special Education Law	127
Jan. 9	Posting about encouraging friends to like KCDHH page	207
Jan. 11	Posting about KSD Pancake Bazaar	140
Jan. 14	Posting about 'Switched at Birth'	212
Jan. 16	Posting about 2 KY Audiologists going on a Mission	196
Jan. 17	Posting about the movie 'The Taming of the Shrew'	114
Jan. 18	Posting about Project Endeavor and Sprint's CapTel	132
Jan. 23	Posting about FCC proposed rules for Text - 911	174
Jan. 23	Additional Posting about FCC rules for Text - 911	122
Jan. 25	Posting about Cancellation of Commissioner's meeting due to inclement weather.	246

Jan. 29	Posting about possible storm in Kentucky	184
Jan. 29	Announcement about HLAA-KY conference	150
Feb. 1	Posting about DOT new rules for CDL	241
Feb. 1	Posting about KSD summer camp	133
Feb. 7	Posting about Support Group for the deaf meeting in Cumberland	167
Feb. 12	Reminder notice about support group meeting in Southeastern KY	190
Feb. 14	Posting detailed info about HLAA-KY conference	177
Feb. 15	Announcing the death of Jim Scoggins	500
Feb. 21	Posting about EKU's New Living Learning Community Center	244
Feb. 21	Posting about KSD Summer Program for K-Grade 8	133
Feb. 22	Announcing KCDHH 30 th Anniversary	189
Feb. 22	Announcing the launch of KCDHH New website	506
Feb. 27	Posting Facebook's funeral page of Jim Scoggins	189
March 4	Posting 'Switched at Birth' noticed, being aired in ASL	883
March 8	Posting about Deaf football player going Pro.	512
March 11	Posting scholarship opportunity to attend HLAA-KY conference	129
March 13	Posting about Gallaudet's 25 th year commemoration of Deaf President Now	167
March 13	Posting about NBDA's Call for Nomination for Award	113
March 19	Posting about Jonathan Ramser's wrestling bout	196
March 22	Posting about Dalai Lama's ASL interpreted event in Louisville	604
March 22	Posting about reparation of sinkhole near KSD.	231
March 25	Posting about 3 bikers, who stopped at the Commission to unwind	636

Website Relaunch

On Feb. 22, KCDHH launched its redesigned website. This new site was the product of several months of planning and includes an easier navigation system and a more visually appealing homepage. This site is a living document, and will evolve as the needs of our constituents and the technology available to us changes. We are receiving positive feedback regarding the new website and are making changes as it evolves.

Information and Referral Requests

The Office of Information Services received **1,171** new requests and **4,524** new contacts during this quarter, broken down as follows by category.

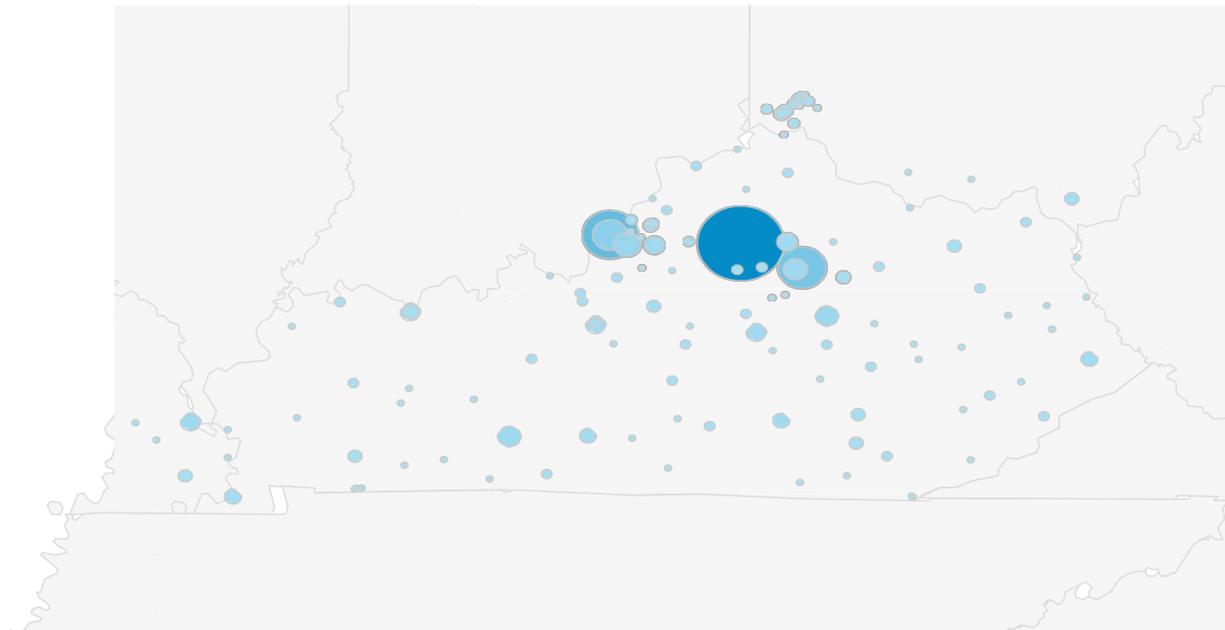
Nature	Closed Requests	Pending Requests	Incomplete Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts
AC: Outreach	1	0	0	1	1
AC: Request for Captioner	5	6	0	31	20
AC: Request for Interpreter	111	31	2	879	794
Administration	13	2	0	14	31
DeaFestival	5	0	0	5	5
IRA : Facebook	1	1	0	1	35
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	6	0	0	13	14
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	61	0	0	68	70
IRA: Demographics & Statistics	4	0	0	4	4
IRA: Education	4	1	0	5	4
IRA: Employment	4	0	0	12	7
IRA: Human Services	12	0	1	18	19
IRA: Interpreting	9	2	2	15	14
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	24	0	0	32	49
IRA: Outreach	3	0	0	10	9
IRA:					
IRA: Technology	19	0	0	23	24

Library	8	0	0	10	10
PUB: Visor Cards	17	0	0	19	22
TAP: Outreach	4	0	0	4	4
TAP: Received Application for STE	101	127	3	459	523
TAP: Received Equipment	12	0	0	13	0
TAP: Repair	3	0	0	3	3
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	464	1	0	481	472
TAP: Status Check	48	0	0	75	94
TAP: TAP Issues	52	1	0	63	38
TOTAL	991	172	8	2258	2266

KCDHH Web Counter Hits:

The KCDHH Web site has received 7,062 visits from all over the world with 4,632 of those visits and 9,899 pageviews coming from within Kentucky alone. One may notice an increase of 1,139 (32.6%) visits and 6,011 (60.7%) pageviews from within Kentucky over the last quarter, which may be attributed to the transfer of the new website.

Jan 1, 2013 - Mar 31, 2013



Total Visits (Kentucky)

Visits 4,632 % of Total: 65.59% (7,062)	Pages / Visit 2.46 Site Avg: 2.25 (9.33%)	Avg. Visit Duration 00:03:12 Site Avg: 00:02:54 (10.75%)	% New Visits 55.83% Site Avg: 61.89% (-9.80%)	Bounce Rate 54.15% Site Avg: 58.75% (-7.84%)
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Primary Dimension: City Metro Other ▾

Secondary dimension ▾

advanced     

City	Visits	Pages / Visit	Avg. Visit Duration	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
1. Frankfort	1,394	2.86	00:05:02	23.60%	54.23%
2. Louisville	826	1.90	00:02:00	58.84%	63.56%
3. Lexington	518	2.02	00:01:35	66.80%	50.58%
4. Jefferson	136	2.04	00:01:57	69.12%	54.41%
5. Richmond	118	3.97	00:04:56	51.69%	44.92%
6. Owensboro	102	2.66	00:02:35	73.53%	43.14%
7. Bowling Green	92	1.87	00:01:13	80.43%	63.04%
8. Paducah	85	2.25	00:02:02	83.53%	57.65%
9. Danville	78	2.85	00:03:12	51.28%	42.31%
10. Elizabethtown	78	2.09	00:02:10	96.15%	58.97%

Total Pageviews (Kentucky)

Pageviews 9,899 % of Total: 100.00% (9,899)	Unique Pageviews 6,930 % of Total: 100.00% (6,930)	Avg. Time on Page 00:02:26 Site Avg: 00:02:26 (0.00%)	Entrances 4,955 % of Total: 100.00% (4,955)	Bounce Rate 59.43% Site Avg: 59.43% (0.00%)	% Exit 50.06% Site Avg: 50.06% (0.00%)	Page Value \$0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (\$0.00)
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Total Visits (World)

Visits 7,062 % of Total: 100.00% (7,062)	Pages / Visit 2.25 Site Avg: 2.25 (0.00%)	Avg. Visit Duration 00:02:54 Site Avg: 00:02:54 (0.00%)	% New Visits 61.89% Site Avg: 61.89% (0.00%)	Bounce Rate 58.75% Site Avg: 58.75% (0.00%)
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Advocacy

Consumers frequently contact KCDHH asking for advocacy on a variety of issues. During this quarter, some of these included, but were not limited to:

- Requests from deaf consumers interested in obtaining a Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). After the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) pushed for acceptance with the Department of Transportation (DOT), we received requests in Kentucky on obtaining the test. We advocated in their behalf on navigating the test and obtaining appropriate accommodations to take the CDL.
- KCDHH served as a liaison with the Project Safe to be more accessible to all individuals needing services.
- Discrimination complaint about the Louisville Fire Department. KCDHH gave resources and guidance on available options.
- KCDHH provided guidance to the juvenile detention facility regarding provision of a Sign Language Interpreter.



KCDHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, governmental agencies, public and private entities.

Rauch Interpreting Services:

The Executive Director presented at Rauch's town hall meeting on March 14 in New Albany, Ind. Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals attended to discuss the use of Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) within the hospitals. Rauch presented on the use of VRI within the Louisville hospitals then opened the floor up to concerns regarding the use of VRI. Most of the concerns centered on the misuse of VRI by hospitals.

The Executive Director advised on how KCDHH became involved with the hospitals and implementing the use of VRI, and how KCDHH had stressed the importance of "consumer choice" and the proper way of using VRI in certain situations, as follows:

- Used only until an interpreter can arrive at the hospital.
- Educated hospitals on the proper use of VRI and the importance of "consumer choice" overriding hospital convenience.
- Need to educate deaf and hard of hearing consumers on the proper use of VRI and the need to express "consumer choice".
- How other states use VRI

The Executive Director indicated a focus group would be formed to discuss the concerns of the community in depth and develop a plan to address the issues with the hospitals.

Administration Regulation Subcommittee

The Executive Director attended an Administrative Regulation Subcommittee meeting at the Capitol Annex in Frankfort on March 12. Interpreter Licensure regulations were being reviewed and changes were approved and no controversy occurred or comments were necessary. The regulations passed on to the next and final stage of approval.

Interpreter Concern

LEO Weekly, a Louisville Entertainment Magazine, contacted the Executive Director regarding an article they had drafted about a recent graduate of the Interpreter Training Program (ITP) that was complaining about the difficulty new regulations were causing with interpreting students obtaining temporary licensure in Kentucky. The Executive Director was interviewed as part of the article, and advised that KCDHH had advocated for the new regulations, which raised the level needed to obtain licensure from intermediate, to advanced, on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).

In order to increase the number of professional interpreters under the new guidelines, the Executive Director has requested to collaborate with the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) to provide additional opportunities for SLIP testing for interpreters throughout the Commonwealth.



KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, education, awareness, as well as programs and services to foster informed cultural and linguistic choices.

Meetings with Kentucky Association of the Deaf

The Executive Secretary II attended the Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) Conference Committee meeting as a proxy for the Executive Director on March 6. The committee consisted of representatives from KAD, KCDHH, and the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) and the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Interpreter Training Program (ITP) staff. “We Rise With Collaboration” is the title of the Conference will be hosted in partnership with each of these organizations at Perkins Hall on EKU’s campus on Sept. 12-14. Discussion included possible dates for the Opening Ceremony Reception, ASL Film to be shown, four workshops by KAD and KYRID, and the banquet. KCDHH will be providing flyers and coordinating the entertainment section.

Hands and Voices

The Executive Staff Advisor attended a Hands & Voices meeting March 23 in Louisville. This meeting was open to the public and provided a panel of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. The panel members spoke about their experience raising a deaf/hard of hearing children and addressed questions from the audience, which were primarily other parents of deaf/hh children.

The Executive Staff Advisor participated in the quarterly Hands & Voices conference call on March 1. State chapters gave updates and discussion was held about the upcoming annual conference in Madison, Wis.

The Executive Staff Advisor led a Hands & Voices board meeting Feb. 23 in Frankfort. The board meeting was held to elect new officers and board members.

The Executive Staff Advisor led an all day training Feb. 13 in Louisville for current and new *Parent Guides* involved in the *Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side* program. This training involved six PowerPoint presentations that explained the scope of the Hands & Voices program as well as the *Guide By Your Side* program and how to work with families in a nonbiased manner.

Hands Alive

The Executive Staff Advisor attended the Hands Alive event March 19 in Louisville to give a presentation to deaf and hard of hearing high school students. The presentation was titled "Navigating Advocacy" and focused on federal laws that give deaf and hard of hearing individual's equal rights as well the importance of developing effective self-advocacy skills.

First Steps Meeting

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Internal Policy Analyst III, met with First Steps Division Director of the Adult & Child Health Improvement Division and the coordinator of Part C to discuss concerns with the First Steps regulations. The regulations were updated to assist with accountability and documentation of all service providers within the Commonwealth. During the meeting discussion included the criteria for becoming a first steps provider, the need to have the child's hearing loss documented as a priority rather than a secondary condition, the lack of service providers for the deaf and hard of hearing children, and the need to provide parents with non-biased information.

First Steps staff explained how the state is divided into districts and how each has a coordinator that assesses the child and provides the parents with a list of service providers. In partnership, to improve services for deaf and hard of hearing children, it was agreed that two coordinators would be educated on the need to identify and prioritize the child's hearing loss. KCDHH will also meet with the Director of the Division of Learning Services to discuss how the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Statewide Resource Center, Lexington Speech and Hearing Center and the Heuser Hearing Academy can be involved as service providers through First Steps. Hands & Voices should serve as a resource to parents with children identified to have a hearing loss through First Steps as well.

K-12 Study Group:

The Executive Director and the Executive Staff Advisor met March 19 with the Executive Director of Heuser Hearing and Language Academy and the Executive Director of the Lexington Hearing and Speech Center to discuss concerns they had regarding changes in First Steps regulations. The full report of the outcome is contained in the K-12 Study group report in the Commission meeting packet.

EHDI Planning

The Executive Staff Advisor participated in an Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) conference call on March 7. The purpose of the call was to discuss the upcoming National conference with those who will be attending from Kentucky. Individuals identified which conference sessions they were interested in attending so the group could ensure the best coverage of all topics.

Legislative Education Presentation to HLAK

The Internal Policy Analyst III gave a presentation to the Hearing Loss Association of Kentucky, Lexington chapter, on "How a Bill becomes a Law" and other legislative issues surrounding how the General Assembly works during its annual sessions. General information about KCDHH and our services was also provided at the chapter meeting. The presentation was well-received and another HLAK chapter has requested that it be repeated.

Life After High School Transition Fair

The Information Program Coordinator attended the *Life After High School* Transition Fair hosted by the Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative at Leburn on March 22. The Transition Fair was set up for deaf and hard of hearing students in the region to learn about resources available such as assistive technology, mental health, advocacy, vocational rehabilitation, and protection and advocacy. KCDHH set up a booth with general information about the agency. Several people stopped by our booth to learn about our agency and the Telecommunications Access Program.

Green River Firefighters Association Officers School

Information Office Supervisor represented KCDHH in the exhibit hall at the Green River Firefighters Association Officers School Feb. 23 in Lexington. He distributed information to attendees and made contact with leaders in the fire protection community. A Captain with the Madisonville Fire Department expressed interest in possibly bringing that department's mobile fire safety education trailer to DeaFestival or other KCDHH public events. The trailer helps simulate home emergencies like fires in ovens and smoke coming from stovetops and electrical outlets. In the trailer's simulated bedroom, they have also included a bedshaking device, which goes off when the trailer's smoke detectors ring.

Currently, the trailer does not have a strobe light to go with the audible alarm, but the Captain said that is something they are considering.

Education Advocacy Training

The Executive Staff Advisor, Information Office Supervisor, and both Information Program Coordinators attended “Education Advocacy: Understanding Special Education and Rehabilitation 504 Plan” Feb. 26 in Frankfort. This presentation was provided to obtain a better understanding of the difference between the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the 504 Plan. Each one has specific laws and requirements related to the students’ needs in a school setting.

Kentucky School for the Deaf Pancake Social

Information Office Supervisor, Executive Staff Assistant and Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf annual Pancake Social Feb. 1. Staff fielded questions, mostly about TAP, from Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) students, alumni and visitors.

Art Contest Winners “Fool” Travels the State



The “Communication: Every Word Matters” fiberglass foal continued its journey to Anderson County Middle School Jan. 10, where it was greeted by school staff and winning artist Hannah Dowd. On Feb. 8 it traveled to Paducah Tilghman High School, home of another winning artist, Jessica Lopez. The school was proud to display the foal in the library since the topic of the month was “horses.”

The Executive Staff Advisor and Information Program Coordinator traveled to Bowling Green March 8 to deliver the foal to Greenwood High School. Upon arrival, the principal and the mother of Nicole Agro, the art contest winner, greeted us. The school was very excited to have the opportunity to display an artwork by one of their students. The foal was displayed in the main lobby.



Schedule of where the horse will travel the remainder of the school year.

- April 19 to May 24, 2013 / Jimmy Yeley Jr. / Brooks Elementary School



KCDHH Goal V: Cultivate and maintain an environment where productivity, efficiency and innovation thrive.

Americans With Disabilities Basic Building Blocks Course

The Information Program Coordinator took an online class hosted by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network. This class allowed students to complete topics at their own pace with a post-test at the conclusion. The subjects included the definition of ADA and what is covered by the ADA. There are five Titles within the ADA (I – V), each Title was explained, and examples given of what is covered in each title. The class started on Feb. 25 and was completed successfully on March 1.

Kentucky Association of Government Communicators

The Information Office Supervisor attended a Kentucky Association of Government Communicators meeting on Jan. 16 on the top 10 national public relations blunders of 2012. The group discussed the selected blunders and had a short brainstorming sessions on what could have been done differently to prevent them from happening.

Staff Meetings

Staff meetings were held throughout this quarter and issues discussed included:

- Newly designed website
- PR and outreach for KCDHH
- Unique situations involving KCDHH’s advocacy procedures
- Upcoming priorities

Birthdays

KCDHH celebrated the birthdays of the Executive Director and one of the Information Program Coordinators during this quarter. A farewell luncheon was given to Katie Huber who accepted a new job in Ohio closer to her soon-to-be husband. Congratulations and Good Luck wishes were given to her for her wonderful service at KCDHH.

Memorial for Jim Scoggins

On Feb. 15, Jim Scoggins, the beloved husband of KCDHH's previous Executive Director, Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins passed away after a sudden illness. The staff of KCDHH and the constituents of Kentucky, whom he served for many years, mourn his loss. He was a longtime supporter of the deaf and hard of hearing community and believed in equality and education for all consumers. He was an outstanding advocate for the community wherever he served. A memorial is planned for April 6 in Texas, where he was raised and lived for many years and retired to when Dr. Scoggins left Kentucky in 2008. He will be sorely missed.