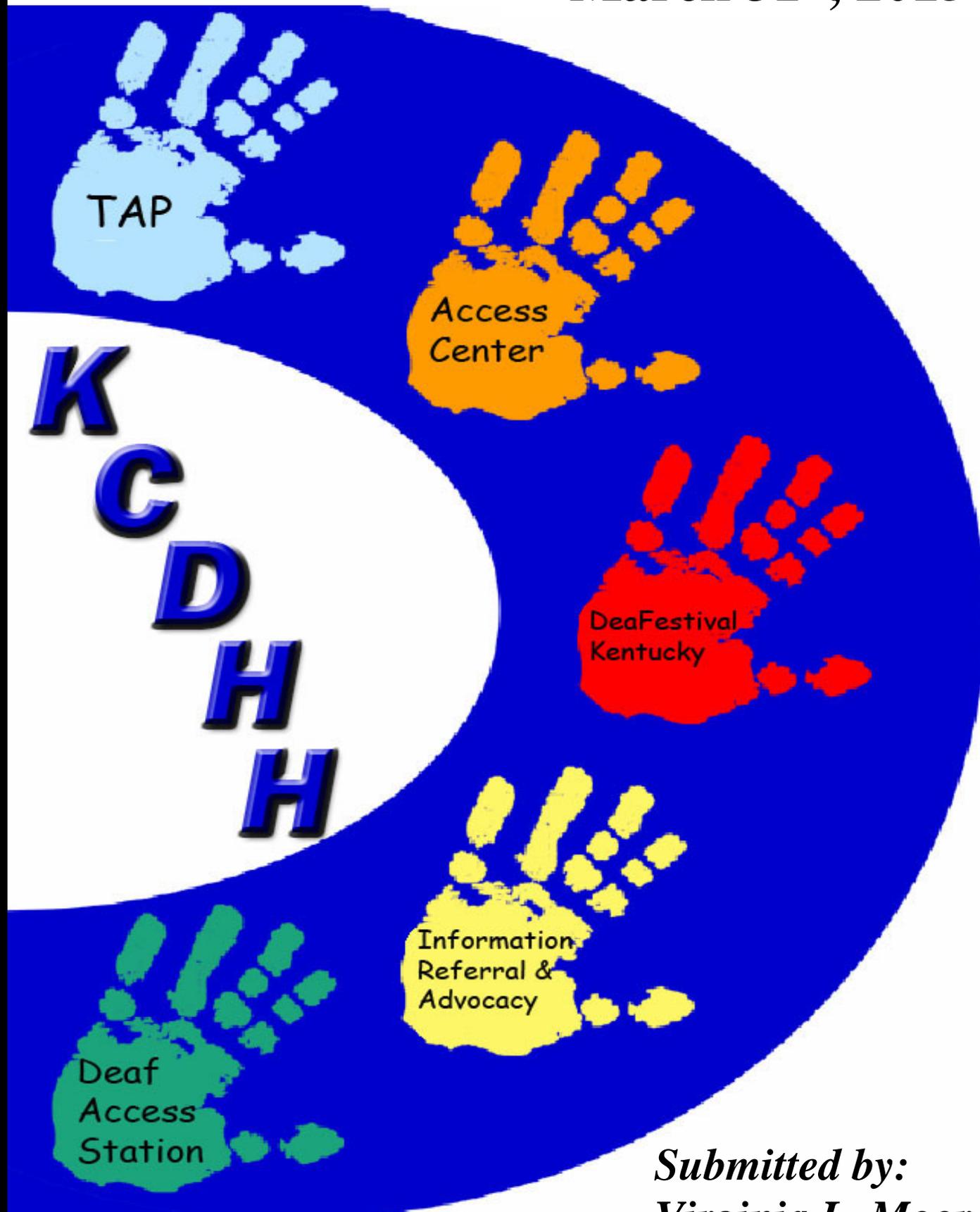


# Agency Report

January 1<sup>st</sup> through  
March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015



*Submitted by:*  
*Virginia L. Moore*

## KCDHH Quarterly Activities

January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015

### ***Legislation***

The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III monitored legislation during the 2015 session of the General Assembly for any bills impacting the deaf and hard of hearing community and attended legislative liaison meetings with Cabinet agency representatives as needed. As it was a short session, few bills passed until the final days of the session. One bill, House Bill 152 regarding deregulation of telecommunication services may impact some of our consumers. This bill allows telephone companies to invest more funds into internet based technologies and ends the obligation to provide landline services to customers in urban and suburban areas if service can be provided through mobile or internet based services. Customers are allowed to keep their landlines if they request such within 60 days of receiving a transition notice and rural customers will keep landline services unless in a newly constructed area that only provides internet based services. This transition allows companies to invest in improvements to broadband rather than maintaining old technology. Other bills regarding charitable gaming, dating violence, heroin usage, drug abuse, gas tax, retirement systems and drunken driving penalties also passed, as did a bill waiving make up days for some schools that had a high number of snow days.

*(3.3 Continually monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)*

### **Broadband Kentucky**



On February 4 the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Internal Policy Analyst III and Executive Staff Interpreter met with the Executive Director and Program Coordinator from the Office of Broadband Outreach and Development. The KCDHH staff educated the Broadband Kentucky staff about issues that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are beginning to experience, as some Internet Service Providers (ISP) are initiating a cap on data usage. Data caps have a negative and harmful impact on videophone (VP) users as they quickly consume their allotted monthly data and are no longer able to make VP calls unless they increase their data cap which is costly and inequitable. It was agreed that this issue needs to be addressed quickly and possibly through legislation. The Executive Director of Broadband Kentucky volunteered to contact some legislators to set up a meeting to see if they would be interested in sponsoring something for the 2016 legislative session. A follow up telephone call was made by the Executive Director on February 13 to set another meeting date and discuss details.

A brief follow up meeting was held on February 27 to revisit the issue and discuss the legislative contacts that were made by the Broadband Kentucky Executive Director. One interested legislator joined the meeting via conference call and suggested several other

legislators that may be interested in supporting this initiative. The Broadband Kentucky Executive Director will follow up and another meeting will be scheduled after the current legislative session is over.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Budget***

The Executive Director provided the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet with a budgetary update for the agency in February, pending a potential cut before the end of the fiscal year. Budgetary calculations are on track. An appropriation increase for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year was requested in early March, to obtain funds to fulfill the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) waiting list but no determination has been received from the Budget Office to date.

### ***Personnel***

The Information Office Supervisor position, as well as the approved fourteenth position, remains vacant until the agency's budgetary limitations are determined for the fiscal year. The Executive Secretary position paperwork has been submitted to Personnel and is expected to be finalized by April 1.

### ***American Sign Language as a Foreign Language***

On February 23 the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Executive Staff Interpreter met several administrators from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to discuss the validity of American Sign Language (ASL) as a formal foreign language. The KDE believes that to compete academically, economically and politically, and function successfully in a global society, American students need to be globally competent, and that means being able to communicate and interact effectively in at least one other language and culture. KDE is therefore implementing a World Language and Global Competency Program for all public schools in Kentucky, which offers a variety of foreign language courses for all students. KDE indicated that they are interested in adding ASL to the list of languages available. A core group will be established and meetings will be ongoing to bring this to fruition.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Language Access***

The Executive Director provided the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet with information regarding language access per a request from the Cabinet regarding translator services. The questionnaire explained that American Sign Language (ASL) should also be considered when evaluating and agency's translator services and how it is the third most used language in the United States. Emphasis was made that we provide the majority of

our information in ASL so our consumers have full access to the programs and services we provide. Information was also provided on video remote interpreting services and how we are collaborating with various governmental and private agencies to ensure communication is effective for our constituents.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Kentucky School for the Deaf Forum***

The Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) forum on February 28. Several administrators gave updates regarding different aspects of what is currently happening at KSD. Topics discussed were: the Deaf Caucus, the KSD Advisory Board, KSDs future in the 21st Century, Facilities, Outreach and K-12 Education. The forum was very well attended and numerous members of the public gave input both in written and video format. The common theme throughout is in regards to effective communication on KSD's campus, including Administrators, teachers, staff and students. Public feedback will be taken into consideration by the current administration.

*(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*

### ***National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference***



The Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor attended the annual National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in Louisville March 8-10. The goal of the annual EHDI meeting is to enhance the implementation of comprehensive state-

based EHDI programs. A multitude of diverse workshops were provided with the goal of assisting EHDI stakeholders (federal agencies, non-profit organizations, state health departments, educational agencies, advocacy groups, families, and professionals) in identifying and promoting knowledge and awareness of successful strategies for implementing comprehensive state-based EHDI programs. Such programs would include screening, audiological diagnostic evaluation, early intervention, medical home care, reporting, tracking, surveillance, loss to follow-up issues, data integration, and other related surveillance components.

*(3.6 Expand on partnerships with state and national organizations to improve early hearing detection and intervention.)*

### ***KYRID Conference***

KCDHH once again partnered with the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) spring conference on March 20-21 in Bowling Green. The Executive Director, Internal Policy Analyst III, and the Interpreter I attended. Multiple workshops were available on a variety of topics that provided professional development for working interpreters.

*(5.1 Seek professional and personal development opportunities for staff and commissioners.)*

## KCDHH GOALS



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

### ***Partnership with CHFS and KCDHH***

The Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) brought KCDHH, the EEO/Civil Rights Compliance Branch Manager and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Language Access Section together for a meeting on February 4. The goal of the meeting is to understand the process of how spoken language interpreters are coordinated through CHFS as compared to how sign language interpreters are coordinated through KCDHH. Discussions focused on the challenges deaf and hard of hearing individuals are facing throughout Kentucky in order to receive equitable services, and how to improve systems and interpreter coordination for these individuals. This collaboration will be ongoing.

*(1.8 Further expand partnerships with other agencies (state, public and private) on why and how to utilize interpreters and captioners effectively.)*

### ***National Interpreter Certification Opportunities***



KCDHH offered twelve National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Interview and Performance Exams, along with one Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) Written Exam, during this quarter. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) has asked that we continue to provide NIC Interview and Performance Exams and has yet to announce a launch date of the McCann Testing System. RID has been working actively with McCann to make sure that all sites are standardized as far as lighting, hardware, software and bandwidth. KCDHH continues its promise to provide testing. When RID has an official date for the change it will be announced to the public.

*(1.3 Provide national certification opportunities (NIC) within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.)*

### ***Access Center Assignments***

Requests	Filled /pending assignments	Cancelled assignments	Interpreting Hours	Average # of contacts per assignment request
Request for Interpreting	133	7	752	16
Request for Captioning	8	0	30	12
Request for Videoconference	0	0	0	0

## Telecommunication Access Program Activities



The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) has implemented a waiting list for equipment due to budgetary constraints. All applications have been thoroughly reviewed and ongoing determinations are being made daily, with consumers receiving notification that they are on the waiting list until funds are available. Applicants are given a resource list, allowing them to purchase the equipment if they prefer. Capitel internet based equipment applicants are being referred to the vendor for assistance. Per our regulations new applicants are served before reapplicants, causing some applicants to be placed on a longer waiting list. Additional funds have been requested, however, no timeframe can be provided at this time as to when the waiting list can be served.

One vacancy on the TAP Advisory Board was approved in January and another will be recommended to the full Commission in April. Several excellent applicants indicated interest in serving and were reviewed by the Executive Board. Two additional members' terms expire in June and both have agreed to continue to serve another term, one hard of hearing and one deaf.

The Internal Policy Analyst III teleconferenced with representatives from Minnesota on February 5 to discuss Kentucky's TAP iPad project, how it is proceeding, pros and cons of the pilot, and how that device was added to offerings within the program. Multiple states have contacted us this quarter as they work to expand their distribution programs to include such equipment. Some have been provided with information on how we petitioned the Public Service Commission to add wireless providers to the surcharge base. Kentucky continues to be a pioneer in distributing the most technologically advanced telecommunications equipment through TAP.

On March 11 the TAP Program Coordinator, the Document Processing Specialist I and the Internal Policy Analyst III met with two representatives from Amplicon. They gave an impressive presentation on equipment available through their company to state distribution programs, including android phones and tablets. The TAP staff is researching new equipment as a precursor to vendor bids opening soon.

*(1.6 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program and promote the use of assistive devices for the deaf and hard of hearing.)*

## Telecommunication Access Program statistics

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
Applying for STE	0	0	498



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

***Information and Referral Requests***

The Office of Information Services received **6,656** new contacts and **2,177** new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

Nature	Contacts	Closed Requests	Pending Requests
AC: Request for Captioner	102	5	3
AC: Request for Interpreter	2287	1111	29
AC: DAS	1	1	0
AC: Outreach	3	0	1
Administration	44	5	5
DeafFestival	22	10	2
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	47	17	0
IRA: Deaf Culture	7	3	0
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	167	82	0
IRA: Demographics	3	1	0
IRA: Education	19	6	0
IRA: Employment	6	2	0
IRA: Families & Children	24	8	0
IRA: Human Services	115	35	1
IRA: Interpreting	80	32	2
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	198	38	1
IRA: Outreach	22	5	0
IRA: Technology	118	49	0
Just Betty Survey	2	0	1
Library	6	3	1
PUB: Communicator	55	29	1
PUB: Directory of Services	2	1	0
PUB: Ice Cards	4	2	0
PUB: Visor Cards	43	18	0
Special Projects	7	4	0
TAP: General Questions	9	1	2
TAP: Status Check	6	3	0
TAP: Outreach	1	0	1
TAP: Received Application for STE	2276	18	199
TAP: Repair	23	5	1
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	906	414	1
TAP: TAP ISSUES	51	14	4
<b>Report total:</b>	<b>6,656</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>255</b>

*(2.1 Provide up-to-date and accurate information and make appropriate referrals to the public upon request.)*

## Public Relations Output

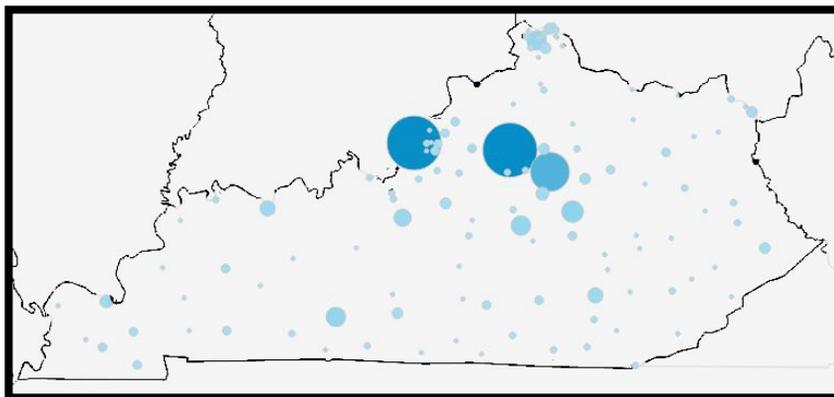
The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by the agency. **16,331** information and PR items were distributed during the quarter as follows.

PR Dissemination	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	1460
Blitz	8890
Social Media	5981
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,331</b>

*(2.8 Launch an aggressive PR plan to share information about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## KCDHH Web Counter Hits: January 1 – March 31, 2015

The following image depicts the various cities and towns throughout Kentucky from which visitors accessed our Web site. The bigger the circle, the more visits from the area that the circle represents.



The following image lists the top 10 Kentucky cities and countries in the world from which visitors visited, and the top 10 pages of our Web site that they viewed. We have had a total of 4,139 visitors from Kentuckians this quarter which represents an insignificant drop of visitors from the previous quarter (4,459). As always, interest in the TAP program continues to be steady.

*(2.5 Broaden the Web site to be inclusive of issues and needs of Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

Top Ten Visitor Cities in Kentucky		Top Ten Visitor Countries in World		Top Ten Pages Visitors Viewed	
City ?	Sessions ? ↓	Country ?	Sessions ? ↓	Page ?	Pageviews ? ↓
	4,136 % of Total: 55.81% (7,411)		7,411 % of Total: 100.00% (7,411)		14,272 % of Total: 100.00% (14,272)
1. Frankfort	956 (23.41%)	1. United States	6,697 (90.37%)	1. /index.html	4,105 (28.76%)
2. Louisville	933 (22.56%)	2. Brazil	189 (2.55%)	2. /forms/index.html	947 (6.64%)
3. Lexington	508 (12.28%)	3. Philippines	58 (0.78%)	3. /ois/signlang.html	890 (6.24%)
4. Richmond	143 (3.46%)	4. Italy	54 (0.73%)	4. /deafestival/index.html	888 (6.22%)
5. Bowling Green	131 (3.17%)	5. (not set)	43 (0.58%)	5. /bulletin/events.html	725 (5.08%)
6. Danville	111 (2.68%)	6. United Kingdom	33 (0.45%)	6. /oea/whatequip.html	539 (3.78%)
7. Florence	111 (2.68%)	7. India	26 (0.36%)	7. /oea/tddprog.html	410 (2.87%)
8. Elizabethtown	90 (2.18%)	8. Canada	25 (0.34%)	8. /oea/howapply.html	355 (2.49%)
9. Owensboro	74 (1.79%)	9. Portugal	24 (0.32%)	9. /bulletin/index.html	341 (2.39%)
10. London	62 (1.50%)	10. China	14 (0.19%)	10. /ois/assistive.html	321 (2.25%)

### ***“Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patients” Presentation***

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presented to the Southside Technical School in Lexington on March 4. The audience was future Registered Nurse Assistant students. The presentation focused on effective communication required for deaf and hard of hearing patients and why effective communication is necessary.

The Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation regarding deaf and hard of hearing patients to the Louisville Gerontological Nurses Association on March 14. This presentation discussed the prevalence of hearing loss in senior citizens, ways to identify possible hearing loss, the importance of addressing it and the needs for effective communication with elderly patients that have a hearing loss.

*(2.2 Facilitate training opportunities regarding issues that affect the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

### ***Coffee Chats***

As part of KCDHH’s ongoing efforts to keep the community we serve advised of current events and opportunities for advancement, a “Coffee Chat” video was initiated on March 30 to give an overview of upcoming conferences, both local and national, that are pertinent to our community in 2015-2016. This allows consumers to schedule their time to attend a conference important to their needs. On March 30 representatives from the Hearing Loss Association of America, Kentucky Chapter (HLAK) participated, to provide additional information regarding their upcoming conference September 11-12, 2015 in Louisville.

*(2.7 Provide public and Web forums to foster discussion by the public on deaf and hard of hearing-related issues.)*



**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.**

### ***Kentucky School for the Deaf Advisory Board Meeting***



On January 13 the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board meeting as a parent representative. The meeting gave updates on the new KSD Strategic Plan as well as other initiatives.

KSD Administrators met with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Associate Commissioner regarding new initiatives at KSD and also met with local school superintendents (Boyle County and Burgin) regarding offering classes for their students at KSD (reverse mainstreaming). Memorandums of Agreement will be drafted for this option. Administrators also consulted with a representative from Gallaudet University regarding Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives.

The long-term vision for KSD includes the development of community partnerships and increasing KSD's ability to compete with other schools in many ways, including ensuring high level academic opportunities for all KSD students. Improvement and enhancement of outreach services is also part of the long-term plan.

Administrators will be meeting with a public relations specialist at the KDE to develop a Public Relations plan for KSD.

Questions were also asked regarding development of the master schedule and efforts to recruit teachers. Discussion ensued regarding certification and the PRAXIS test. Although teachers must pass this exam, it was noted that the KDE Commissioner is now on the Education Professional Standards Board, which is a positive step in pursuing creative options for teacher certification. Currently approximately 25% of the KSD staff is deaf or hard of hearing, with 75% hearing staff.

On February 2 the Executive Staff Advisor, as a parent representative, again attended the KSD Advisory Board meeting. Presentations were given by two KSD staff regarding Student Voice which is a component of the Teachers Professional Growth and Evaluation System (TPGES). It is one source of data in the summative evaluation of teachers. Students in grades 3-12 took the survey last year as a pilot. Students are scheduled to take the survey again in March. Initial results suggest that the areas of Support and Engagement were strengths and the areas of Trust and Nurture were the lowest scored. The second presentation focused on Student Life and information was shared regarding dorm schedules, dorm program activities, extracurricular activities, trips and athletics. Future activities that will take place at KSD in the next quarter were also discussed.

*(3.1 Advocate for improved education for deaf and hard of hearing students.)*

## Hearing Loss Association of Kentucky



The Executive Director attended the Hearing Loss Association of America, Kentucky chapters (HLAK) Louisville chapter meeting, on January 13 and gave a presentation on the variety of programs provided by KCDHH, and updated the group on the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) and the waiting list for equipment that has been established. Attendees asked questions and made requests and the Executive Director provided information and answers as appropriate. About 30 consumers attended the event.

The Internal Policy Analyst III attended the HLAK Bardstown Home chapter meeting on January 26 and gave a presentation on the overall programs available through KCDHH, in particular the TAP and the current waiting list for equipment. About 35 attendees asked questions and completed requests for additional information, such as a visor cards. One attendee had concerns over being fired from a job because of their hearing loss and requested advocacy in pursuing an appeal. The request was referred to the Information, Referral and Advocacy department for assistance.

On February 23 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the HLAK Kentucky Home chapter meeting for KCDHH, in which a presentation was done by the local representatives of Code Red, and Smart911, both local emergency notification systems. A presentation was made by the Nelson County Dispatch Director in Nelson County and the County Sheriff. Code Red (in Nelson County) notifies the user when any kind of emergency is impending. Discussion was held on how local personnel provide the 911 services and how grants are being sought to upgrade equipment so the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate for next generation 911 (NG911) text to 911, can be implemented. The presenters registered attendees for the local Code Red. Some attendees asked questions about KCDHH and our programs, especially TAP, and information was provided. The Sheriff requested visor cards to use for training of both county and city police officers in the area.

*(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*

### **Hearing Aid Bank Project**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP) meeting on January 20 in Frankfort. Members from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network, and Hearing Loss of Kentuckian gathered to receive an update regarding SHARP and make recommendations for changes necessary. Applications are now being accepted. On March 30 we were advised that SHARP has received numerous applications for hearing aids. Some individuals have been referred to other sources first and advised to reapply if they cannot find assistance. More than 25 applicants have been served, some receiving refurbished hearing aids, some obtaining repairs on their current

hearing aids and some applying for new hearing aids through the Hear Now program, with SHARP paying the application fee. Hear Now is a program for individuals who need financial assistance for hearing aids. The recipients are responsible to pay for the application fees upon approval. If a recipient cannot afford the application fee, then SHARP provides the funding to cover the cost. If a recipient does not qualify for the Hear Now program, then refurbished hearing aids may be available. SHARP covers the cost up to \$250 towards the refurbished hearing aids. Brochures are being printed for inclusion in the information packets KCDHH sends out when consumers request assistance with hearing aids.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Advisory Board***

On February 3 the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Kentucky Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (KY EHDI) Advisory Board meeting. This was the first meeting after a long hiatus and reformation of the board. The advisory board guidelines were reviewed along with the mission statement, both of which need updates. Co-chairs were selected and a meeting schedule was established. Discussion focused on identifying possible goals for the board for the upcoming year. Some potential goals in common areas of interest were; to mandate early intervention eligibility guidelines to include unilateral and mild bilateral, auditory evaluations prior to kindergarten and legislative change to require reporting of all newly diagnosed children with permanent hearing loss 0-18. Goals will be set at the next meeting and workgroups will be formed to address the chosen goals.

On March 16 the Executive Staff Advisor attended another KY EHDI Advisory Board meeting. The priorities of the board were revisited and two goals were identified: Education of Primary Care Physicians (PCP), Otolaryngologists (Ear, Nose and Throat specialists) and Medical Home staff; and ensuring consistent audiological evaluations statewide or Audiology Protocol Development. Subgroups were formed to address each issue and the board continues to address issues until they are satisfied with an outcome.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center meeting***

On February 10 the Executive Staff Advisor met with the Customer Relations coordinator, Patient Representative and their legal counsel to discuss Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Centers' recent decision to implement a Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) pilot project. They explained that they had new equipment that was much more user friendly than in the past and that they felt this would offer much more effective communication so they are doing a 90-day trial to see if it will be effective. The Executive Staff Advisor explained that while there have been some technical improvements, there are still numerous issues with using VRI in medical settings which causes it to be ineffective in the

majority of situations. After a breakdown of the multitude of issues, information packets containing Interpreter Referral Agency lists, articles related to VRI ineffectiveness in medical settings, articles related to lawsuits regarding VRI in medical settings, standard practice papers from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the National Association of the Deaf, related to VRI in medical settings and a copy of Kentucky Licensure information related to interpreters maintaining a license was shared with the hospital staff. The Executive Staff Advisor encouraged them to reach out to the deaf community that use their services and let them know they want to test VRI to determine when it can be effective and obtain the deaf community's input. It was also recommended that they develop a questionnaire to have deaf patients complete when they do use VRI. The hospital staff agreed that both would be a good idea and requested assistance in reaching the deaf community. It was suggested that they develop an information sheet to disseminate at the Kentucky School for the Deaf Forum which they agreed to do.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***“Just Betty” Project***



On March 6 the Executive Director received a request from an independent survey company to complete a Housing Needs Assessment for the Northern Kentucky area. This request came from our ongoing partnership with Cardinal Capital Management to pursue housing for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, also known as the “Just Betty” project. A land assessment is being completed for the area and the Executive Director held a teleconference with the representative to provide some information and referred them back to Cardinal for additional information (income) obtained from surveys completed during DeaFestival 2014.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***AT&T Ongoing Partnership***

On March 15 the Executive Director met with AT&T staff to discuss our ongoing partnerships. The primary contact for past endeavors is retiring and the new representative was introduced. Discussions regarding the importance of equality and effective communication, especially on the internet as data caps were discussed. Issues of importance to the deaf and hard of hearing community were emphasized and possibilities of future sponsorships for events such as DeaFestival were also discussed. KCDHH was assured that AT&T will continue to support our efforts to ensure effective communication and recognition of the needs of our community.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network (KATS)***

On February 19 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network meeting in Louisville as Chair. Activity reports were received from the Assistive Technology (AT) Centers in Louisville, Lexington, Owensboro and Newport. An update on the Statewide Hearing Aid Recycle Program (SHARP) was provided and amendments to the Boards current by-laws were discussed to add a fourth meeting date per year to keep current on AT issues and advocacy needed at the National level. The CARAT (collecting and refurbishing assistive technology) project is expanding and will soon be serving western Kentucky as well as the current locations in eastern and central Kentucky. Updates were provided by members regarding their current initiatives to assist disabled individuals with having access to appropriate technology and services.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation***

The Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Board meeting as Chair on March 25. Reports were presented by new representatives from Fifth Third, the bank that facilitates the assistive technology loans, and members reviewed and approved electronic applications authorized throughout the previous quarter. Outreach activities were summarized and a report provided on the success of the car ID program, which assists individuals in saving funds to purchase a car for employment. The first recipient qualified for purchase and an article was written for several publications regarding the success of the program, which also provides financial guidance to disabled individuals enrolled.

### ***Public Library Videophone Presentation***

On February 24 the Chair of the Videophones in Public Libraries study group and the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing gave a presentation at the Newport Branch library in Northern Kentucky. Approximately 15 Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) Region 5 Library Directors attending their Public Library Administrators of Northern Counties in Kentucky (PLANCK) meeting received the presentation. KCDHH is spreading awareness about providing communication access via public videophones to the deaf and hard of hearing community in Kentucky. The presentation was well received and other libraries may participate in the project soon.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*

### ***Kentucky Functional and Access Needs Collaborative***

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Kentucky Functional and Access Needs Collaborative meeting on March 18 in Versailles. The

meeting brings together agencies that serve disabled individuals to ensure they have access to emergency services, and information about impending emergencies. This meeting focused on recent flooding events, and medical alerts such as Ebola, flu and super bug viruses and a presentation was given by the Director of Pharmacy Emergency Preparedness. KCDHH is a member of this collaborative to ensure the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community are recognized and addressed during state emergency planning.

*(3.4 Enhance emergency preparedness, response (including mobilization of resources), and the emergency notification communication system for Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing persons.)*

### ***Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Board meeting***

On March 20 the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) Board meeting via teleconference. The meeting included discussions of the RID Region III conference, raising KYRID membership, the financial report of KYRID, upgrading the website, researching the idea of individuals being able to pay for membership electronically via PayPal and how to generally increase membership.

*(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*



**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.**

### ***KentuckyOne Health Deaf Community Outreach meeting***

The Executive Staff Advisor and The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Deaf Community Forum on January 29 at St Mary and Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville. The Forum was hosted by the KentuckyOne Language Services and in recognition of the area's diverse cultural makeup; they offer interpreters to assist KentuckyOne Health patients and their families with the variety of languages in the community including the deaf and hard of hearing.

*(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Spelling Bee**

The Executive Staff Advisor and Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing traveled to Hardin County College and Career Center in Elizabethtown on March 3 to serve as judges for the first annual Statewide Spelling Bee for deaf and hard of hearing students. There were approximately 150 students, staff, and family in attendance. KCDHH provided information regarding the programs and services we provide.

*(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*

### ***DeaFestival Kentucky 2016 location meeting***

On March 23 the DeaFestival core planning committee which includes the Executive Director, the Executive Staff Advisor and the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended a site visit the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC) and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The site visit included a tour of Broadbent Arena and the New Market Hall. The KEC and Crowne Plaza Hotel offered packages that the DeaFestival core planning committee is considering to determine the location of DeaFestival in 2016.

*(4.3 Educate and expose the public to the uniqueness of deaf culture.)*

### **Hands Alive**



The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing volunteered at the Hands Alive event in Louisville on March 27. This event is held annually for the deaf and hard of hearing students in the Louisville region. The volunteers ran the Obstacle Course and Scavenger Hunt for the students. One new concept was added to this event, Peer Mentoring; where all older kids are partnered up with younger kids to promote one-on-one relationships to provide guidance for younger children dealing with their hearing loss. Approximately 100 students were in attendance.

*(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*



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

### **KentuckyOne Health Workshop**

On February 3 the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended, “The Magic of the Pre-Session” workshop, in Louisville at Jewish Hospital hosted by the KentuckyOne Health’s Language Services Department and the Division of Behavioral Health Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services program. KCDHH was able to network and meet the KentuckyOne Health’s Language Services Department as well as take in the information regarding the process and strategies sign language interpreters should consider during a pre-session before a medical appointment.

*(5.1 Seek professional and personal development opportunities for staff and commissioners.)*

### **Medical Interpreting Immersion Program**

On March 5 the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the Medical Immersion Program at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. This program focused on complex medical terminology, infections, diseases, medications, test and procedures and how to analyze and rethink how interpreters process and translate certain concepts accurately into American Sign Language and how to make improvements in signing skills/expression.

*(5.1 Seek professional and personal development opportunities for staff and commissioners.)*

## **Staff Meetings**

Staff meetings were held on February 24 and March 26 to discuss ongoing projects within the agency and update all staff on any current issues.