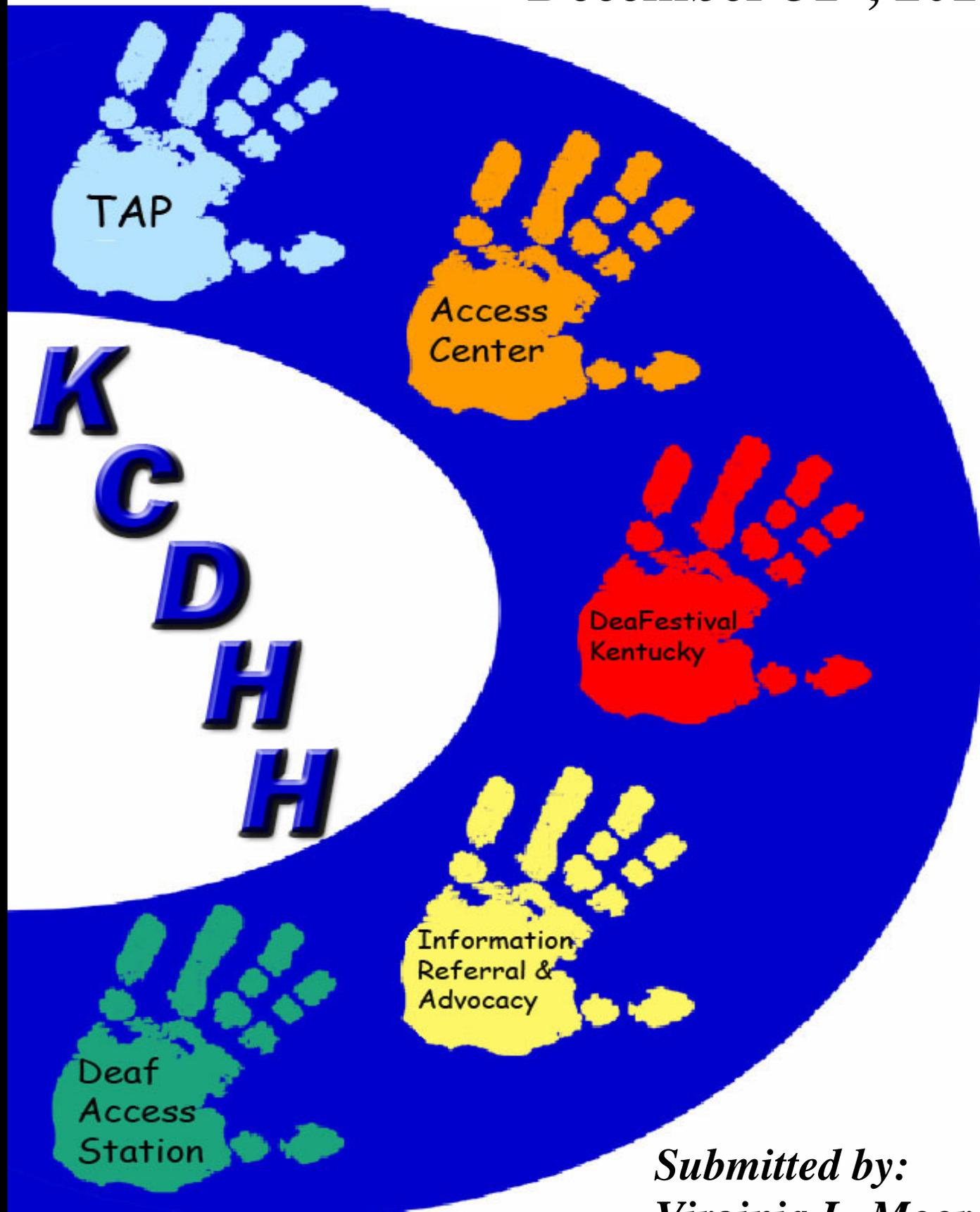


Agency Report

October 1st through
December 31st, 2015



*Submitted by:
Virginia L. Moore*

KCDHH Quarterly Activities

October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Legislation

KCDHH continues to monitor all legislation pre-filed for the upcoming 2016 General Assembly session. We watch the Governor's budget proposals for cuts or shifting of funds for KCDHH or the agencies we work with. It is anticipated that with the new administration there will be a learning curve and many issues will be presented to change current state programs. The Board will be advised if advocacy is needed to support our agency goals.(3.3 *Continually monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.*)

Budget

The 2016-2018 biennium budget proposals for KCDHH were submitted as required in October. Information regarding KCDHH's Authority to operate our programs was submitted to the Cabinet as requested in November. The new administration is transitioning into their positions and the Governor has appointed our new Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Hal Heiner, along with other Cabinet executives for agencies we work with closely. KCDHH's annual budget is on track.

Governors Transition Plan

KCDHH's transition plan was submitted through the Cabinet to the Governor, in October along with our budget predictions, and was well received. Some additional information was requested and we provided more details on our facility, personnel, operating expenditures and an overall explanation of what KCDHH accomplishes and how deeply we are weaved into many other state agencies. We emphasized that we must have public access for our consumers to utilize videoconferencing and have a direct connection to us for library materials, resources and staff assistance

Personnel

Interviews for the Information Office Supervisor vacancy were conducted in November. Some great candidates applied, but failed to complete the state's application process correctly and therefore did not qualify to be interviewed. The Personnel Cabinet was contacted and the applicant's resume was not sufficient, the qualifications must be listed on the state's automated application. Interviews narrowed the field down to four, but basically two individuals have the public relations and supervisory experience needed, and also have a background in grant writing, which would assist us in funding some programs discussed by the Board. A final recommendation for the Information Office Supervisor was submitted to Personnel in mid-December, with an anticipated start date of January 16.

Education

The Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor attended the Council for Exceptional Children's conference at the Galt House in Louisville Kentucky in November. During the three day conference there were several presenters. One particular presentation was made by the Principal and Staff member of the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). They presented on the partnership between KSD and Boyle County Schools. KSD is providing a culinary arts class and has invited the Boyle County students to take the class. This was discussed as "Reverse Mainstreaming". During the course of this presentation several questions were asked by a representative from Gallaudet University which specifically questioned the wisdom of teaching a class at the school for the Deaf to 18 hearing and 2 deaf students and making the deaf students use a sign language interpreter, rather than being taught in their native language.

During the last quarter the Executive Director has met with the KSD Parent Teacher Cottage Alumni Association several times. The parent group has outlined a list of concerns which include education and dorm life for their children at KSD. The parents asked for advice on how to approach these concerns through the correct administrative process and meetings with the newly appointed Executives within the educational system are to be held in January.

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

American Sign Language as a Foreign Language

Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor met twice this quarter with staff from the Office of Next-Generation Learners, Division of Program Standards and staffs from the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) within the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to further discuss the process of getting American Sign Language (ASL) taught as a foreign language in public schools. Two issues were discussed, credentialing of ASL instructors for K-12 and the Praxis which is required for all instructors. A conference with the state administrator for the Praxis, and the administrator from Virginia, was held to discuss accommodations that must be provided for those taking the test. It was determined that an interpreter can be used for the Praxis for all elements except the English portion. The group also decided that there is a need to standardize the interpretation of the Praxis and follow up will be done with the Gallaudet University sign language department to develop standard testing methods.

(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.)

National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf and Hard Hearing

The Executive Director currently serves as the treasurer for the National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH). During the last quarter she participated in five separate multipoint videoconferencing call meetings to collaborate with other members on topics which affect the deaf and hard of hearing populations in all

states. Topics of the meetings included; the RID Moratorium, Gallaudet Internship, and the National proposed Hearing Aid bill. NASADHH is working to partner with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) to provide feedback and opinions with regards to the lives of the consumers we serve nationwide.

(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 Clerc Banquet

The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Clerc Banquet on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) in December. The banquet is a cultural experience as it celebrates the history of deaf education and KSD is the only school that continues to hold this honorary banquet for 33 consecutive years. The keynote speaker was Dwight Benedict from Gallaudet University. He gave a short presentation on the cultural history of deaf education and then two students told the story of Gallaudet and Clerc’s voyage to America and how they started the first deaf school. Mr. Benedict also stressed the need for deaf students to continue their education beyond high school and outlined the expansion of educational opportunities at Gallaudet in the upcoming future.

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

KCDHH GOALS



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

National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Opportunities



KCDHH offered 26 National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Interview and Performance Exams, along with two Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) Performance Exam, during this quarter. During this quarter there has been an influx of individuals taking the NIC Interview and Performance exam because of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) moratorium on credentialing starting January 1, 2016. This was an increase of 18 from last year during this quarter.

(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	286	3	1090	11
Request for Captioning	5	0	4	9
Request for Videoconference	0	0	0	0

Telecommunication Access Program Activities



The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board met on October 8 at the KCDHH office in Frankfort. Board members were provided updates on current application processing statistics, finalization of the vendor contracts for new equipment, outreach efforts, conferences attended and new members added to the Board. Members were provided with a detailed PowerPoint showcasing the new equipment that will now be distributed through TAP. The Kentucky Telephone Association has a new Executive Director, but he was unable to attend. Materials from the meeting were sent to keep him advised of our actions. A new hard of hearing consumer was appointed and the Board was provided updated contact information for all members. Kentucky's Sprint Relay representative was present and provided members with updates on outreach and their future plans. Meeting minutes provided with this report include more details on the discussions and presentations.

The Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Board met on October 8 at the Public Service Commission (PSC) building in Frankfort. Eight consumers and three staff from agencies working with the PSC and TRS were present. Sprint, Kentucky's relay service provider, hosted the meeting and provided updates on the outreach partnerships completed in the last six months, and updated members on future endeavors. Traditional TRS minutes are declining due to wireless text and videophone usage, but CapTel minutes are increasing statewide. Sprint ran articles in Kentucky Monthly Magazine and Louisville magazine, and will once again run ads on television regarding CapTel, which should increase requests for equipment from KCDHH as well as direct purchase requests. Sprint remains the only provider with a mobile captioned app. Members discussed concerns with relay and Sprint answered questions and gave recommendations. The PSC representative announced that the TRS contract expires in January and will be posted for bid in November, and assigned in December. Sprint and Hamilton are the only relay service providers nationwide and both will have the opportunity to bid on the contract.

Multiple states continue to contact KCDHH asking for information and guidance on how we implemented and expanded our TAP. Most requests come through the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Administrators (TEDPA) base camp where members that operate similar programs in their state can openly discuss pros and cons of their programs. Kentucky remains a leader in providing wireless technology through TAP and other states have obtained information to mirror our program operations. Daily processing of applications continues to be on track, and the increase in requests has kept staff busy during the last quarter. New vendor contracts are in place and orders are being processed per regulations. Currently there is not a waiting list for equipment. TAP continues to partner with our Information Services team on outreach activities to optimize contacts and ensure the best utilization of funds. More professionals that work with deaf and hard of hearing consumers, such as speech language pathologists, are reaching out to our program to provide equipment for their clients.

AT&T Public Relations staff contacted TAP staff in October to review the telephone directory information for customers with disabilities. Sprint staff and KCDHH TAP staff reviewed the information and made significant changes and submitted the information to AT&T. In late November we were advised that all the comments were accepted and will be reflected in the 2016 directory. We were also advised that the semi-annual advertisement about TAP would be included as an insert in the November telephone bills. This typically increases our requests for TAP applications.

On October 22 the Internal Policy Analyst III met with the Director of the University of Kentucky DeafBlind program and one of her staff. They happened to be in Frankfort and dropped in to ask questions about TAP and how we can work together to ensure DeafBlind individuals are provided with the telecommunications equipment they need for equitable access. The federally funded National DeafBlind Accessibility program is now being run by their department, in coordination with Eastern Kentucky University and the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). On November 4 the Internal Policy Analyst III and Document Processing Specialist II met with the new DeafBlind Coordinator for OVR and provided him with information on TAP and other resources KCDHH might provide for his consumers. He seemed anxious to work with us in partnership to better serve this population of consumers with unique communication needs.

(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	292	312	97

University of Louisville (UofL) Department Of American Sign Language Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) Meeting

On October 28, American Sign Language Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) Advisor/Practicum Supervisor and Practicum Coordinator/Instructor met with the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Information Coordinator and Interpreter Referral Specialist at the KCDHH office to discuss the University of Louisville Interpreter Training Program. Discussions include UofL’s ASLIS Program future, current projects, and possible future partnerships to increase ASLIS students involvement with KCDHH and the deaf community.

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

Kentucky Board of Interpreters Ad-hoc Committee

An Ad-hoc committee, selected by the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) was formed to address how Kentucky can proceed with credentialing of interpreters during the Registry of

Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) moratorium. The committee includes KBI members, stakeholders and interpreters. Options were discussed for allowing temporary licensed interpreters and those from out of state to become licensed in Kentucky and a draft proposal with alternative solutions is being written. The Ad-hoc committee agreed that the Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) test is an option, but discussion continues as to which level of the BEI would be accepted for licensure and if other tests should be considered as well. On November 20, the Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist met with the Director and BEI Administrator from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to discuss in depth the BEI process, credentialing and history in order to understand the certification and how it can best fit Kentucky Licensure. The Ad-hoc committee meetings will continue until an alternative testing mechanism is in place.

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

Student Voice Survey



The Division of Next Generation Learners reached out to KCDHH to partner for the second time in order to have their K-12 Student Voice Survey given in American Sign Language. The survey allows students to answer questions about their classroom experience; including how they interact with classmates to their relationship with teachers. The goal of creating an ASL version of this survey is to give deaf and hard of

hearing students the ability to access it in their native language. On November 23, the Information Coordinator and Executive Staff Interpreter participated in the videotaping of the ASL version of this survey at the Department of Education.

(1.10 Work with school systems and postsecondary institutions to promote proper utilization of captioners and licensed interpreters.)

Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK)



On December 1, the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended a meeting at the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) to meet with staff involved in a specific case regarding a young deaf individual and appropriate placement. The meeting included the celebration of the successful outcome of this collaboration,

debriefing on the experience, and continued discussion of possibilities for improving services to deaf and hard of hearing children and youth in Kentucky.

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





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

PAH Immersion Weekend



The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was invited to give a presentation about KCDHH and its services at the Preparing ASL Hearts (PAH) immersion weekend hosted by the Western Kentucky University (WKU) American Sign Language Organization (ASLO). On October 9 approximately 120 new signers and Interpreter Training Program (ITP) students from different universities came together in a relaxed setting to enhance their signing skills and learn from experts in the field, make new friends and have fun signing.

(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.)

Kentucky School for the Deaf Pancake Breakfast/Bazaar

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Annual KSD Pancake Breakfast/Bazaar on November 13 at Grow Hall. This event started bright and early with members of the community enjoying a hot meal and a little Christmas shopping. KCDHH set up a booth distributing resources our programs and services. It was also a great opportunity to begin promoting DeaFestival 2016, which will be held in Louisville on Labor Day weekend. There were approximately 1,000 people in attendance.

(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.)

University of Louisville American Sign Language Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) Open House

On November 13, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the University of Louisville American Sign Language Interpreting Studies (ASLIS) Open House. Staff hosted an information booth to give ASL students from different universities the opportunity to learn about KCDHH and its programs and services.

(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.)



Information and Referral Requests

The Office of Information Services received 6,919 new contacts and 1,060 new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

Nature	Contacts	Closed Requests	Pending Requests
AC: Request for Captioner	49	4	1
AC: Request for Interpreter	3227	268	18
AC: DAS	3	2	0
AC: Outreach	1	0	1
Administration	7	3	0
DeaFestival	16	7	1
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	62	22	1
IRA: Deaf Culture	5	3	0
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	148	73	1
IRA: Education	5	1	0
IRA: Employment	0	0	0
IRA: Families & Children	21	4	1
IRA: Human Services	99	33	4
IRA: Interpreting	87	30	0
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	186	37	4
IRA: Outreach	24	6	1
IRA: Senior Citizens	0	0	0
IRA: Veterans	4	2	0
IRA: Technology	46	22	1
PUB: Communicator	34	17	0
PUB: Directory of Services	2	1	0
Library	10	2	0
PUB: Visor Cards	41	17	0
Special Projects	2	1	0
TAP: General Questions	38	12	1
TAP: Status Check	12	5	1
TAP: Outreach	0	0	0
TAP: Received Application for STE	1785	41	214
TAP: Repair	31	11	0
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	887	428	2
TAP: TAP ISSUES	32	8	2
Report total:	6919	1060	255

(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. **27,467** informational and public relations items were distributed during the quarter. This number is noticeably lower than the last quarter due to KCDHH being involved in the Kentucky State Fair and several other large conferences.

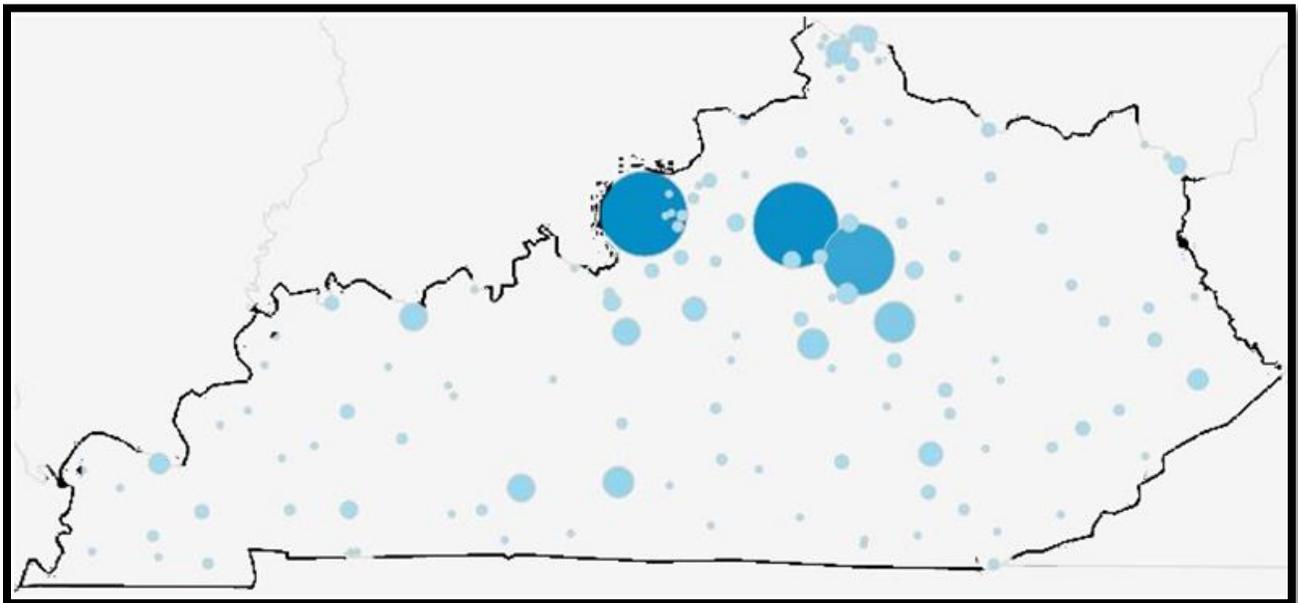
PR Dissemination	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	6,707
Blitz	11,018
Social Media	9,742
TOTAL	27,467

(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: October 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

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

We have had a total of 3,972 visitors from Kentuckians this quarter which represents, amazingly, a drop of only two visitors from the previous quarter (3,974). Requests slightly increased and interest in the DeaFestival slightly waned over the last quarter.



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



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 (KSD) Advisory Board Meetings

On November 4, and December 2, The Executive Staff Advisor attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board Meetings. Questions were raised about why the school is not following communication policies effective in the past. KSD Administration stated that there are legal concerns with the old policies and procedures as it appears that they were not officially approved by the governing authority, and the administration is now working on a new manual. Once completed, all KSD policy and procedures must be reviewed by Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and approved by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE).

After much discussion amongst board members, administration and visitors, it was decided that the board would draft a letter to the Commissioner of the KDE and Chair of the KBE to outline advisory board priorities regarding policy and procedures on campus, specifically the use of ASL and hiring practices. Members decided that every other month this Board meets will be a working meeting, to allow time to do research and draft letters as a group.

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

Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness and First Steps Training

The Executive Staff Advisor traveled across the state this quarter to team with the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness (SERCD) staff to give seven all day trainings to First Steps staff. The trainings emphasized the need to address the “Whole Child” rather than just the hearing loss. It was emphasized that First Steps needs to make sure the SERCD consultants are part of their team so that they can ensure the multiple issues that need to be dealt with are addressed with the family. Approximately 150 First Steps staff attended the trainings. As a result of the trainings, requests and referrals from consultants in the field began coming in, to prove there has always been a need and the training provided the resources for the consultants.

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

State Facility Interpreter Training

On October 9, the Interpreter I and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended a half day interpreter training at Bingham Gardens, an intermediary facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Staff members from each department came to the training and gave a brief description of their roles, responsibilities, and expectations. Then the Department of Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services representative spoke about mental health and the role of interpreters in a mental health setting. CEUs were provided. This training helped build a better relationship between KCDHH staff, facility staff and interpreters working in the field.

(3.5 Work in partnership with public, private and state providers to improve mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing.)

Division of Protection and Permanency

On October 21, the Interpreter Referral Specialist, Department of Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and the Internal Policy Analyst III from the Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP) had the first of several meetings to address the needs within Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) to look at improving individualized language access needs for the deaf and hard of hearing children and families who are receiving services within the cabinet. The Internal Policy Analyst III from the DPP is looking at building capacity to serve these children in an out of home care setting, ensuring language access at all points of DCBS services, and accurately tracking individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing as they move through the system.

(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.)

South Eastern Medical Interpreters Association



On October 26, the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Interpreter Referral Specialist and Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing had the first of several meetings with South Eastern Medical Interpreters Association (SEMIA) representatives. SEMIA is a 501c3 group that provides educational opportunities to interpreters and translators working in the health care field. SEMIA also promotes professionalism and public awareness related to the importance of providing quality interpretation services in health care. SEMIA representatives contacted the KCDHH with several concerns regarding American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in the medical field, such as lack of interpreter availability, Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), and how to address the deaf and hard of hearing community in order to build trust and establish a working relationship. KCDHH has been working with the group to advise them on how to address these issues. From these meetings, the group is developing a video for the community at large, another video for health care staff on the importance of effective communication and will film a series of coffee chats with SEMIA representatives. This partnership is also working to develop a plan on how to grow the pool of interpreters that are available to work in medical settings.

(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 Department of Library and Archives Presentation

On October 27 the Executive Staff Advisor and Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing gave a presentation to supervisors and staff at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA) in Frankfort. The presentation was “Working Effectively with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals” and gave information about hearing loss and tips on communication and ways in which they could work more effectively with their deaf coworker. A question and answer session immediately followed and proved to be beneficial to all involved.

(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.)

Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children

On November 22-23, the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) meeting during the Council for Exceptional Children's annual conference in Louisville. SAPEC Panel members were allowed to attend conference sessions of their choosing and the panel only met for one day. The focus of the one day meeting was the election of new officers and discussion of old business.

(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

On December 15 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended and chaired the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Board of Directors meeting in Louisville at the McDowell Center. The Fifth Third Bank representative provided members with an update on the status of our outstanding loans, and warned that an interest rate increase of .25% is imminent, probably by the end of the year. Another increase of .25% will probably take effect by mid-year. This impacts consumer loan rates for KATLC as rates are based on 4.5% plus prime. KATLC staff indicated that loan requests have gone down, but in checking with other states that operate the same program are also seeing a reduction in requests recently. We are seeing requests from vendors (audiology centers) on behalf of their consumers. Directors discussed possible changes to home modification loans and the delays involved in out of state modified vehicle loans. Loans voted on during the last quarter were confirmed, a financial report was provided which included default payoffs, and current and future marketing activities were discussed and approved. One member's term is expiring and replacements were discussed and the vacancy will be advertised.

(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

On December 4 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Council meeting at enTech of Kentuckiana, one of the regional Assistive Technology (AT) centers, located on the campus of Spaulding University. Members discussed three vacancies on the board and possible recommendations to be forwarded to the Governor's office for appointment. Co-Chairs were elected for the upcoming year. The KATS staff provided updates on activities completed since the last meeting and the regional centers; Bluegrass Technology, enTech, Redwood, Western Kentucky Assistive Technology and Carl Perkins; also provided updates on AT distributed, loaned and refurbished, and reported on outreach activities conducted. Updates were also provided by representatives of the Statewide Hearing Aid Project, the Care and Reuse of AT project, Protection & Advocacy, KATLC, OVR, KDE, the Rehab Tech Branch, ADA Branch and KCDHH. KATS staff also advised members of the Federal reporting statistics for the last year and gave a cumulative update on activities that will be included in the

report. KATS has been working closely with the Kentucky Board of Elections to implement on-line voting registration that will meet the requirements needed for use by disabled individuals, especially blind or paralyzed voters. The National Federation for the Blind, Kentucky Chapter, has taken over the newslines available to blind individuals. The agenda for the 2016 Summer Conference was discussed and a date confirmed as June 14-15. Many new presenters will be represented including emerging technology vendors, one of which will showcase new lighting techniques for the elderly and those with seizure disorders. All members of this council work together to ensure AT is available for any disabled Kentuckian. A tour of the enTech facility was conducted to end the meeting.

(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.)

Housing for Seniors

The Executive Director met via teleconference on November 5 with the Director of a senior housing development group out of Texas. Although they were referred to us from a meeting at the Deaf Nation Expo, it was determined that they are not ready to partner with us as we see the project needs to be handled. Communication continues with Cardinal Development Group to start this project in Northern Kentucky.

(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.

“Everybody Counts” Presentation

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was invited to Seton Catholic School in Lexington on October 28 to participate in Everybody Counts Week. A presentation was given to 2nd graders who were eager to learn about hearing loss and American Sign Language. The students were amazed at the assistive technologies available especially the bed shaker. Each student received an ASL sheet and a coloring booklet of simple every day sign language.

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

Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KYRID) and Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) Joint Conference

November 6-7, KYRID and KAD had its second joint conference at Eastern Kentucky University. KCDHH staff assisted with pre planning details and also participated in a panel discussion. The Executive Director provided a video welcome to the conference. During the welcome she focused on the need for the deaf and interpreter community to work together and develop respect for one another. The conference then included an ice-cream social Friday evening with a performance by Christopher Rawlings. On Saturday the

conference offered consecutive workshops during the day and topics included but were not limited to Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in Health Care Panel, Jump into ASL Sports, and A Call for Cross-Movement Activism: Achieving Deaf Access to Justice and Disability Justice in Communication of Color, and Personification. The joint conference had almost 200 people in attendance.

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

Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Spelling Bee

The Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Document Processing Specialist II traveled to Elizabethtown on December 3 to the Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Spelling Bee. KCDHH staff participated as judges during the competition. Students from all over the state joined to represent their school. There were approximately 150 in attendance.

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

DeaFestival-Kentucky



On December 16, the Executive Director, Information Coordinator, and Interpreter Referral Specialist met with the Director of Community Relations & Events at the Louisville Mayor's Office to discuss our 2016 partnership with WorldFest, scheduling for the Louisville Mayor to attend, and promotion of both events. Then KCDHH staff met with the Galt House staff to discuss a possible contract for them to be the Host Hotel for the 2016 event.

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



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

Advocacy, Support & Training (ASTra)



On October 5, the Executive Staff Advisor traveled to Scottsburg, IN to attend the Hands & Voices Advocacy, Support & Training (ASTra) training. ASTra is an educational advocacy training focused on deaf and hard of hearing students. The training focused on Procedural Safeguards, Special Considerations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting planning and Eligibility. This was the first level of a three part training series.

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

Governor's Open House

In December the Administrative Specialist II and the Executive Director attended the Governor's Open House and met the new Governor, Lt. Governor and their families.

Holiday Events

On December 7 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Hearing Loss Association of Kentucky – Kentuckian Chapter, holiday event and discussed KCDHH services with some new members and attendees.

Flu Shots

On October 30, the Franklin Department Health Department sent two nurses to provide flu shots to the KCDHH staff who opted to receive the vaccine.

Ornament Exchange and Potluck Lunch with the Executive Board

On December 12 the agency hosted an annual holiday ornament exchange in conjunction with the Executive Board Meeting. After the meeting, staff and board members enjoyed a potluck lunch, and then participated in a holiday ornament exchange.

(5.2 Ensure the continued, effective collaboration between staff members and Commissioners.)



Holiday Open House with Signing Santa



On December 18 KCDHH hosted the annual Holiday Open House, opening its doors to the community at-large. In addition to refreshments and fellowship, a Signing Santa was on site for children to visit. Many children visited with Santa and each received small gifts and had their pictures made. The event was a great opportunity for interaction among various constituents and also an opportunity for many to tour the KCDHH office for the first time.

Birthdays

This quarter we celebrated the birthdays of the Network Analyst II, Internal Policy Analyst III, Executive Staff Interpreter, Administrative Specialist II and the Executive Secretary II.