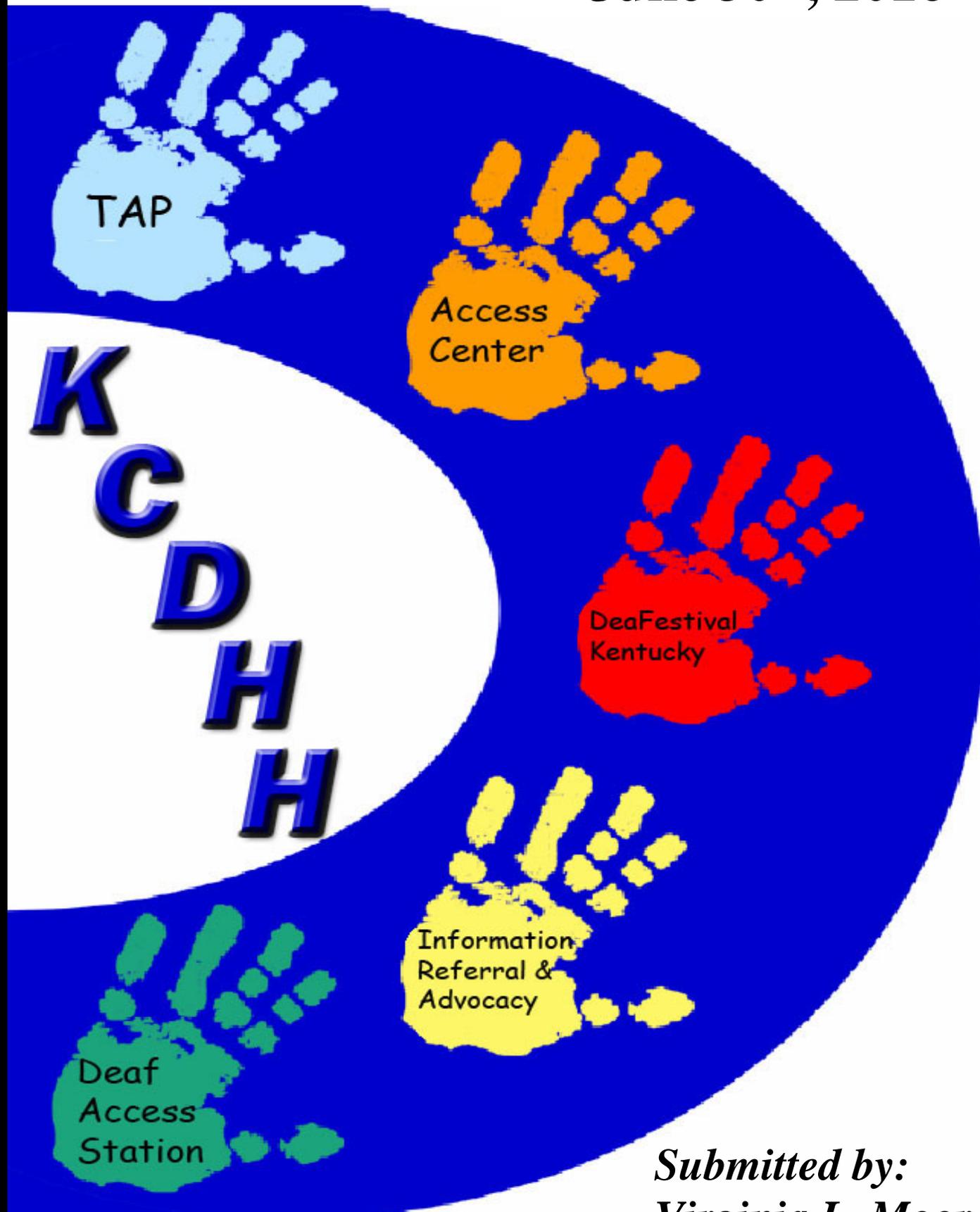


# Agency Report

April 1<sup>st</sup> through  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016



*Submitted by:*  
*Virginia L. Moore*

## **KCDHH Quarterly Activities**

**April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016**

### ***Legislation***

The Information Office Supervisor attended the Legislative Update meeting on April 4 and April 11 with other representatives from the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to receive updates on the passage of bills impacting the agencies within the Cabinet.

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

### ***Budget***

House Bill 303, the Executive Branch Budget bill, passed the General Assembly in the final hours of the session. It was signed by the Governor with some line item vetoes which will impact state programs significantly, especially Vocational Rehabilitation and Medicaid. Overall KCDHH's projected budget request for fiscal year (FY) 17 and FY 18 was granted, but no additional funding was approved. The agency must still endure the nine percent cut each FY of the biennium which will impact some activities for the agency and its programs.

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

### ***KCDHH Strategic Plan***

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Information Office Supervisor facilitated a meeting with various Board Commissioners on June 23 to discuss the agency's Strategic Plan. Discussion focused on ways to simplify the strategic plan to make it more closely connected with the quarterly agency reports and meet the goals the Board and staff agreed upon in previous meetings. Some revisions were suggested and changes have been made. The final version of the Strategic Plan will be presented at the July Commission meeting for full approval by the Board.

### ***National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf and Hard Hearing***

On April 11, 13, May 13 and June 13 the Executive Director, who also serves as the Treasurer of the National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH), met with other Board members from Rhode Island, Arizona, Iowa and North Carolina via videoconferencing. Board members discussed the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) moratorium and what states could do in the meantime to continue licensure of interpreters. The Board also signed an agreement with Gallaudet University to foster interns that can become the pipeline to deaf professionals within state organizations in the future, including technology needs. And the group made plan for the annual NASADHH meeting to be held during the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference in Phoenix in July, for which the Treasurer submitted a financial report and made recommendations for changes that should be made by the association to meet current 501(c)(3) nonprofit requirements and ensure that the association keeps this status by filing the appropriate tax forms in May of each year.

*(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 Board of Education meeting***

The Signing Choir from Kentucky School for the Deaf gave the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting attendees a break at their May meeting by signing three songs. The KCDHH Executive Director, on hand for the meeting, said she could see from the faces of those watching, a new energy that serves as a great reminder of those we serve. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Commissioner also spoke about the six town hall meetings he has already attended and the six remaining meetings he looks forward to. The Commissioner said there is a “need to look at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) and the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) as schools of academic and cultural achievement.”

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

### ***System of Care conference***

The Executive Director attended a meeting on April 21 with staff from the Cabinet of Health and Family Services, Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), to discuss the possibility of presenting at the upcoming System of Care Conference (SOC). On May 9 a planning meeting was held regarding the SOC Conference to be held in Louisville in June. The Executive Director met with the Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services within the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) and discussed what would be included in the PowerPoint and each one's role during the presentation.

On June 9, the Executive Director jointly presented a workshop entitled “Effectively Serving Families with Members who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in the DCBS System” at the Mental Health SOC Conference. Her part explained how agencies should use the KCDHH Access Center to work with interpreters effectively and what resources are available for effective language access and assistive technology usage including videophones and video relay services. The Executive Director explained the departments within KCDHH and programs and services available to work with DCBS staff and the Telecommunications Access Program that provides telecommunications equipment to eligible applicants.

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing also attended the SOC Conference and was part of an activity called "It's a Deaf, Deaf World". Attendees visited various stations such as a bank, doctor's office, grocery store, etc. and at each station the hearing attendees had to communicate with a deaf individual per a script that told them what to do. The purpose was to have them feel the communication barriers that deaf and hard of hearing individuals encounter daily. Participants were then given the opportunity to discuss their experiences of confronting the communication difficulties. Resources and information was shared regarding obtaining and using American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and other resources for the deaf community for these professionals to utilize.

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

## ***Ethics training***

As required by the state the Executive Director attended Ethics training on April 25. The workshop/training advised participants as to what can and cannot be done by agency staff under the Ethics laws. Some new directives were provided which the Executive Director will comply with by the deadline requested.

## ***Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Team meeting***

On April 28 the Executive Director participated in a meeting with all agencies of the Cabinet to discuss upcoming budget reductions and how agencies were going to meet the goal of 4.5% cuts for this FY and 9% cuts for the next two FY. Attendees were introduced to the new Public Relations staff person for the Cabinet and individuals shared ideas on how agencies can keep open communication between themselves and the Cabinet Administrative staff and what PR opportunities could be partnerships to support each other's agency.

*(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.)*

## ***Deaf Grassroots Movement Rally***



On May 3, the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, both Information Coordinators and the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Deaf Grassroots Movement (DGM) Rally at the Kentucky State Capitol. The Executive Director spoke to the community about how critical it is for them to voice out their concerns regarding equal access for education, employment, and communication. The Executive Director also encouraged the community to unite and collaborate with KCDHH on legislative

efforts in the future, emphasizing the power of the community's voice to help promote legislative changes that can help deaf and hard of hearing individuals. She also shared that Town Hall meetings will be held to gather more input from the various communities across the state so KCDHH can better serve our consumers.

*(4.2 Advocate for equal access on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)*

## ***AT&T meeting***

On May 13 the Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III held a teleconference call with the new liaison for AT&T Public Relations. KCDHH explained that many of our consumers are concerned about the broadband issue, in which higher rates would be charged for more usage. This is unfair to consumers that use video conferencing equipment to communicate in their everyday lives. The Executive Director compared it to when TTY's began to be popular and how those conversations took longer so AT&T gave those customers a lower rate on their landline phone charges. AT&T will research this and have further discussions with KCDHH on how we can best serve those consumers without increasing the broadband rates so high. AT&T also advised of four town hall meetings they

would be conducting in the Northern Kentucky area and gave us dates and times to join in the outreach if we could. Consideration of sending staff to those events was discussed.

*(4.2 Advocate for equal access on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)*

### **DeaFestival-Kentucky**



On May 16, the DeaFestival Team met with the decorating company PoSH to go over details that we want for this year's DeaFestival to be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Louisville at the Kentucky Center. The Chair of the foundation, Knowledge Center on Deafness, will work out details with the company, with input from team members and stage directors.

DeaFestival (DF) 2016's theme is along the lines of The Wizard of Oz, including the Yellow Brick Road and Emerald City. The 2016 poster has been finalized and the partnerships have been formed with the Lexington Children's Theater and the Stephen Foster Amphitheater because each has done this theme and will assist with props. Some promos/vlogs have been completed and will be uploaded to the web shortly. DF will be held in partnership with the WorldFest weekend and staff is attempting to collaborate with Waterfront Wednesday (three days before DF) to have a deaf performer at their event. We need all the Commissioners on the board to volunteer as we will be doing set up, the event itself and then break down which takes a lot of people to coordinate.

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

### **State Fair**

KCDHH needs volunteers to work our booth at the State Fair this year, August 18-28, since it is so close to DeaFestival it will be very difficult to have staff their daily. A signup sheet will be passed around at the next Commission meeting encouraging Commissioners and anyone they know to assist. KCDHH will be partnering with Heuser Hearing Institute and Hamilton Relay to host this year's booth. Hamilton became Kentucky's Relay provider effective May 15 and has agreed to sponsor both the State Fair and DF.

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



## KCDHH GOALS



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

### ***National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Opportunities***



During this quarter no performance exams were provided due to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) moratorium. RID announced that they will lift the moratorium on the NIC and CDI allowing registration to occur starting July 1, 2016 but not administer the performance exam until after September. The Interpreter Referral Specialist contacted the RID testing department but was not given a definitive answer as to whether KCDHH will continue as one of the supersites because it seems that RID will be migrating all testing to another company. RID has asked that any questions regarding the performance exam be forwarded to them for a response.

*(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	244	16	1015	10
Request for Captioning	14	2	55	7
Request for Videoconference	6	0	0	1

### ***Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI)***



On June 24 the Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist met with the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Director and the BEI Administrator from the Texas Department of

Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. The meeting purpose was to continue discussions of partnership between KCDHH and BEI testing possibilities for interpreters. At this time, the BEI administration must refrain from any agreements with any states because of changes within their state agency. The BEI has asked that we revisit this after September of 2016.

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

### ***Telecommunication Access Program Activities Update***



The Administrative Specialist II made a series of visits to update equipment and information located across the state at the various KCDHH Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) cabinets. At each location new equipment was placed in the cabinet along with new brochures and

pamphlets. A short training was given to each staff related to the new information and the programs and services provided by KCDHH.

April 4, Center for Accessible Living in Louisville

April 13, Audiologist Associates Dr. Manning's office in Pikeville

April 15, Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center in Owensboro

April 26, Project CARAT Center in Paducah

Additionally, on June 7, the Administrative Specialist II went to the Northern Kentucky Services for the Deaf office in Covington to remove the KCDHH Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) cabinet and move it to a most visible and accessible location at the Redwood Assistive Technology Center in Ft. Mitchell. Applications, brochures and other KCDHH TAP information was given to staff along with training related to KCDHH and TAP so that staff there can serve our consumers that wish to test equipment before selecting their devices.

On May 24 a meeting was scheduled with the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Board at the Public Service Commission in Frankfort. Hamilton Relay won the bid to serve as Kentucky's new TRS provider effective May 15 and representatives were at the meeting to advise Kentucky of their future plans for Outreach and how they will partner with KCDHH. The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended the morning meeting which was cut short due to a tragic incident and was cancelled. Another meeting will be rescheduled for this fall. However, KCDHH staff has since met via teleconference with Hamilton staff to ensure that the transition of the relay service was seamless to our consumers and to discuss how we can partner on future events, especially outreach.

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board was scheduled to meet as well on May 24 at KCDHH but the meeting was cancelled. TAP Board members will be advised of any changes to the TAP via electronic communication until the fall meeting scheduled for October. A new Chair of the TAP Advisory Board is to be named by the full Commission at the July meeting.

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) annual report to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) was drafted this quarter and sent to LRC on June 30. The full report will be posted online, distributed to TAP Advisory Board members electronically and provided to the full Board at the July Commission meeting. TAP processed 1,876 applications during FY 16 and provided 1,263 consumers with 1,748 pieces of equipment.

One TAP device was no longer available through the manufacturer so the vendor allowed us to substitute another device that is similar in quality and use. The TAP brochure is being updated and simplified and the application is being revamped to go along with regulation changes necessary to clarify the program.

*(1.7 Conduct creative marketing and training opportunities to increase awareness and utilization of the services of the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

### **Hearing Loss Association of America Kentucky Home chapter Health Fair**

On April 25 the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Hearing Loss Association of America Kentucky (HLAA) Kentucky Home chapter in Bardstown monthly meeting which was also a

Health Fair to provide all kinds of information for individuals with a hearing loss. Several consumers asked detailed questions about KCDHH and our Telecommunications Access Program equipment and requested additional information mailed to them after the event. There were over 20 vendors there and it was a great success for the 75+ community members who attended.

*(1.7 Conduct creative marketing and training opportunities to increase awareness and utilization of the services of the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

***Hamilton Relay Outreach meeting***

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Program Coordinator, Document Processing Specialist II, Internal Policy Analyst III, Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Executive Staff Advisor all met with the new Hamilton Relay Outreach Coordinator to discuss outreach opportunities and other means of serving the population that utilizes both TAP and the Relay Service. KCDHH will partner with Hamilton to reach out as much as possible and best utilize the funding available for outreach. Hamilton has already committed to supporting our booth at the State Fair and sponsoring DeaFestival.

*(1.7 Conduct creative marketing and training opportunities to increase awareness and utilization of the services of the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

***Telecommunication Access Program Statistics***

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
Applying for STE	296	410	49





**KCDHH Goal II: KCDHH serves 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 6,315 new contacts and 1,335 new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

Nature	Contacts	Closed Requests	Pending Requests
AC: Request for Captioner	99	11	3
AC: Request for Interpreter	2611	214	30
Administration	67	6	3
DeaFestival	37	12	0
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	80	25	0
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	179	81	1
IRA: Education	16	5	1
IRA: Employment	12	2	0
IRA: Families & Children	46	9	1
IRA: Human Services	90	23	2
IRA: Interpreting	125	42	3
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	117	25	2
IRA: Outreach	22	6	0
IRA: Veterans	4	2	0
IRA: Technology	72	32	0
PUB: Communicator	30	14	0
PUB: Directory of Services	2	1	0
Library	2	1	0
PUB: Visor Cards	31	13	0
TAP: General Questions	58	23	0
TAP: Status Check	65	26	2
TAP: Outreach	4	1	0
TAP: Received Application for STE	1611	82	155
TAP: Repair	42	12	0
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	754	434	0
TAP: TAP ISSUES	139	24	6
<b>Report total:</b>	<b>6315</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>209</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 KCDHH. **41,621** informational and public relations items were distributed during this quarter.

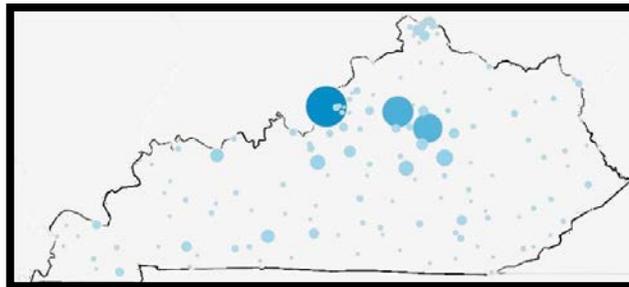
PR Dissemination	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	5,483
Blitz	10,817
Social Media	25,321
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,621</b>

*(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: April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016

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 3,692 visitors from Kentucky this quarter which represents a drop of visitors from the previous quarter (4,689). This drop seems to be mostly impacted by a drop in request forms (from 924 last quarter to 342 this quarter). The good news is that interest in the upcoming DeaFestival content is steadily increasing in views (from 1,507 last quarter to 1,744 this quarter)



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

## Hillbilly Days

The Interpreter I and the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing traveled to Pikeville for the annual Hillbilly Days on April 21-23. KCDHH hosted an information booth to distribute information about our programs and services. This is the largest outreach conducted in the Eastern Kentucky area and staff encouraged consumers to contact the agency with any concerns.

*(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.)*

## **Veterans Resource Fair**

On May 19, the Executive Staff Advisor attended a Veterans Resource Fair in Bowling Green. A booth was set up to share information about KCDHH and its programs and services. We also disseminated the Veterans Resource booklet that we created in an effort to inform veterans with hearing loss that they do have resources available to address their needs and to reach out to this underserved population that is consistently growing.

*(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 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 Department of Education Town Hall Meetings**

On April 7, the Executive Staff Advisor and the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Kentucky Department of Education town hall meeting in Lexington to listen to the Education Commissioner outline his plans for the town hall series and what he will do with the information gathered at these meetings. Multiple attendees gave feedback on a variety of topics and several deaf individuals spoke on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing students and their needs. The Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education seems concerned with the needs of our community and is reaching out for input on how to improve overall education for deaf and hard of hearing students.

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

## **Suicide Prevention meeting**

Both Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended a Suicide Prevention meeting in Frankfort on April 8. Individuals from the deaf and hard of hearing community joined with the Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) to focus on the training “Question, Persuade, and Refer” for deaf friendliness. This training’s goal is to be made available for deaf and hard of hearing individuals who would like to become a trainer and/or assist in the prevention of suicide.

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

## **KCDHH Emergency Preparedness Kit Delivery**

On April 15, the Administrative Specialist II went to the Barren River Area Safe House in Bowling Green to deliver one of the KCDHH Emergency Preparedness Kits. Training was held with staff to explain about the telecommunications equipment that is included in the kits and how and when they should be used for deaf and hard of hearing consumers that may be housed at their shelter in times of emergency.

*(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.)*

### ***Eastern Kentucky University Deaf Education presentation***

On April 18, the Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation to a class of deaf education majors at Eastern Kentucky University. Throughout the semester that class had received presentations from a variety of deaf and hard of hearing adults with diverse backgrounds. Each of the presentations was solely about the individual giving the presentation, their communication choices, education and professional experience, etc. The class was truly interested in the variety of individuals they met and how their hearing loss impacted their lives from early childhood to adulthood and the diversity even within such a small community.

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

### ***Kentucky Mental Health Advisory Board meeting***

The Executive Director attended the Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting on May 18. The group was privileged to hear presentations from two organizations. Oxford House is an organization that has several homes for recovering addicts that are self-run and self-supported by individuals utilizing the facilities. Residents work and contribute a small amount to the cost of supporting the facility while receiving treatment and working together to make decisions. Their motto is "Living Life on Life's Terms" which gives residents the by-in to recover while doing service work. The second organization, Liberty Place Recovery Center for Women, is a facility whose mission is to provide hope to the homeless and those who fear homelessness and are suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. Their program uses peer-to-peer self-help models to motivate residents through education and a structured recovery programs to become self-sufficient, productive citizens. Most of their referrals come through the court systems. The Board discussed other issues such as job openings at the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the impact of budget cuts on the department, upcoming trainings, workshops and focus groups and nursing home updates. Vacancies on the board were discussed and members were asked to consider individuals that would serve the board well when elections are held in November.

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

### ***Parent meeting with Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education***

On April 19, the Executive Staff Advisor attended a meeting with several parents of current Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) students and the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Various parents voiced their many concerns about current policies and procedures and actions that have taken place for the last 12-18 months at KSD. The Commissioner of KDE assured the parents that he had heard what they were saying and that he would look into each and every complaint as he fully supports KSD and the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), as he is also the superintendent for both schools. He emphasized that it would not be a speedy process and asked parents for their patience with him and his staff and they move forward to improve education for all students.

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

### ***Public Information Officer Meeting***

The Information Office Supervisor attended a meeting on May 3 to meet all the public information and communication contacts within the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The group also had the opportunity to meet the Cabinet's new Executive Director of Communications, who shared recommendations regarding release of information and contacts made outside the Cabinet's agencies. The group plans to collaborate and share ideas to help better serve all the agencies within the Cabinet.

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

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

On May 24 the Executive Staff Advisor met staff from the Office of Next-Generation Learners Division of Program Standards and staff from the Education Professional Standards Board within the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) as well as the Division of Learning Services liaison between the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) and the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB). The group met to continue discussion related to the process of getting American Sign Language (ASL) taught as a foreign language in public schools. We were informed that the Commissioner of KDE is very interested in and supportive of these efforts. The Commissioner also intends to add a career pathway at KSD that will allow students to prepare and start working toward becoming an educator. This will help to put more deaf and hard of hearing teachers back into the school system. Discussion focused on the fact that evidence is needed in regards to how many deaf and hard of hearing individuals are struggling to pass certification exams (PRAXIS). It was suggested that KDE should send out a survey, which would perhaps garner more responses. The Professional Learning & Assessment Education Program Consultant I will contact Gallaudet University to see if they can offer information and assistance with our efforts to make certification testing more accessible to deaf educators.

*(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.)*

### ***Bingham Gardens***

On June 16, 2016 the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended a meeting at Bingham Gardens to discuss the current resident and obtain an update so that staff can improve coordination of interpreters for this resident with the assistance of KCDHH.

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

### ***Family2Family Partnership meeting***

On April 29, the Executive Staff Advisor met with staff of the Family2Family Health Information Center and several Kentucky Hands & Voices board members to discuss ways in which a partnership could be developed to prevent families with deaf and hard of hearing children from falling through the cracks. Family2Family staff will provide Family Support training to all Hands & Voices board members who are parents and will then add them to their list of Family Support providers. When Family2Family works with parents/relatives that

have a deaf or hard of hearing child and would like to see a Family Support person, they will then be able to contact the Hands & Voices members to provide peer support. It was a productive partnership 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.)*

### **Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children**

The Executive Staff Advisor attended the Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) meeting on June 9-10. The panel received a 2016 legislative update, especially regarding budgetary impact, and held a special election to choose a new co-chair. Standing committees gave updates and reported their goals for the next quarter. The Executive Staff Advisor is the Chair of the parent committee and the goal for this committee is to do three short presentations to various parent groups across the state explaining the SAPEC and what it can/cannot do for their children.

*(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**



The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Executive Staff Interpreter and Interpreter Referral Specialist produced a vlog with staff from Kentucky One Health and the University of Kentucky hospitals to discuss some of the concerns that consumers have expressed about not getting appropriate accommodations when they are required to go to the hospital. Once edited the videos will be posted on the KCDHH website.

*(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)**



The Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Board met on June 14 in Frankfort before the Assistive Technology (AT) Agribility conference began that afternoon. The Internal Policy Analyst III was unable to attend but materials were forwarded about the meeting and the Agribility conference was a huge success with the largest number of attendees since the conference began. This conference gives options for farmers and outdoor workers once they become disabled and need assistive technology to continue working in their chosen professions.

*(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 (KATLC)**



The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) held its quarterly meeting on June 1 at the McDowell Center in Louisville. However, the Internal Policy Analysts III was unable to attend. As Chair, the Board did solicit feedback and forwarded

materials discussed in the meeting later in June and a new agreement with the lending bank was negotiated, discussed through electronic communication and was approved by the board and signed by the Chair.

*(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 Access Needs Collaborative**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Kentucky Functional Access Needs Collaborative meeting on June 22. The meeting discussed new updates on the Zika Virus situation and also welcomed the new Functional Access Needs (FAN) interim coordinator who is temporary until a replacement can be hired. Additional discussion focused on new goals for FY 17-18. Follow up meetings are ongoing.

*(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.)*



**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.**

## ***Cub Scouts Demonstration***

On April 18, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing gave an American Sign Language (ASL) demonstration and Deaf Culture overview for a local Cub Scouts group in order to assist them in earning their Creativity, Learning, and Exploration Badge. The Interpreter I joined to provide interpreting services.

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

## ***Family Learning Vacation***

On June 4, the Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation to a group of parents at the annual Family Learning Vacation (FLV) held at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) in Danville. The presentation was entitled "*The Whole Child*" and spoke to the importance of stepping back and looking at the whole child as an individual and not just the physical aspects of the child's hearing loss. Social, emotional, language development, education, peers and role models were all discussed as impacting the whole child. After the presentation, a panel of deaf and hard of hearing adults spoke of their experiences, choices and outcomes as well as answered questions that the families in attendance at FLV had for them. The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing participated as a panel member for the discussion and questions.

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

## **National Hearing Loss Association of America conference**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing traveled to Washington D.C. on June 22-26 to attend the National Hearing Loss Association of American (HLAA)

Convention at the Washington Hilton. Hard of Hearing individuals, advocates, audiologists, and other professionals came from all parts of the world to participate in a variety of workshops chosen by the attendees. Workshops were focused on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), new and upcoming technology, social relationships, and advocacy. The Information Program Coordinator ensured that information gathered was shared with the agency upon her return.

*(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.**

### ***KCDHH Database meeting***

On May 12, several Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) representatives and one Education and Workforce Development Cabinet representative met with the Executive Director, the Finance Officer and the Network Analyst II at KCDHH to discuss whether we should renew or upgrade our agency's database. Discussions continue ongoing.

### ***Celebrations***



This quarter, we celebrated the birthday of the TAP Program Coordinator.



A baby shower was held on June 16 to celebrate the upcoming birth of a baby girl to the Interpreter I and her family.

### ***Licensure Renewal***

On June 1 the Interpreter I, Interpreter Referral Specialist, Executive Staff Interpreter, Executive Secretary and Executive Director completed the required Continuing Education Units (CEU) to update and renew their interpreter licensure in Kentucky.