



KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF  
AND HARD OF HEARING

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# QUARTERLY REPORT

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JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30



2025

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## OUR MISSION

**Provide effective and efficient leadership, education, advocacy and programs to eliminate barriers and to meet the social, economic, educational, cultural, intellectual and health and human services needs of deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.**



## OUR MANDATES

KRS 163.510

- 1) The commission shall advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning policy and programs to enhance the quality and coordination of services for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- 2) The commission shall cooperate with and assist local, state and federal governments and public and private agencies in the development of programs for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- 3) The commission shall review legislative programs relating to services to deaf and hard of hearing persons and shall conduct studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of the deaf and hard of hearing.
- 4) The commission shall oversee the provision of interpreter services to the deaf and hard of hearing and may provide services if necessary.
- 5) The commission shall establish procedures for the application and distribution of specialized telecommunications equipment by the promulgation of administrative regulations in accordance with provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.



## 2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

**Goal 1: Transition of Agency** – To create a healthy and effective work culture that promotes staff empowerment and operational efficiency.

**Goal 2: Equal Access to Education and Employment** – To advocate for and drive systematic changes to ensure equal rights, accessibility, and opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing individuals to receive a quality education and secure gainful employment.

**Goal 3: Accessible Health Care** – To ensure that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing have equal access to healthcare services, communication, and information, thus promoting their overall health and well-being.

**Goal 4: Safe Communities** – To ensure the safety, well-being, and equitable treatment of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in all aspects of community life, including emergency preparedness and the criminal justice system.

**Goal 5: Hearing Loss Awareness** – To increase the general public's awareness and understanding of hearing loss, its prevalence, and impact on individuals and society.



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# **Commission Meeting Minutes**

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**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
186<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Commission Meeting  
July 25th, 2025  
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tommy Evans, Melissa Kelly, Jason Smith, Jeannie Taylor, Nancy Perry, Barbie Harris, Sarah Roof, Mona McCubbin, Marva Johnson, Alexander Ansley, Anita Dowd, ELC Secretary Jamie Link, Amy Hatzel (Emeritus), Anthony Adkins (proxy for Michelle Niehaus)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marva Johnson, John Perry, Gerry Gordon-Brown

**STAFF PRESENT:** Emily Kimbell, Justin Stanley, Sam Kapsal

**COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS:** Tracy Lundergan, Linda Bozeman, Shannon Grider

**VISITORS:** None

Ms. McCubbin called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

Ms. McCubbin asked the Commissioners to review the previous meeting's minutes and to suggest any changes.

**MR. EVANS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING AS READ. MR. SMITH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISCUSSION.**

**MS. TAYLOR MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AS READ. MS. HARRIS SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISCUSSION.**

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**REPORTS**

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**Chair's Report**

Ms. McCubbin provided an update on three board positions that have been submitted to the Governor's office for appointment. Ms. Dowd clarified that the Governor's office has requested three nominees for each position. In the interim, Ms. Taylor will continue representing HLAA, Mr. Evans will continue representing KSHA, and Ms. Perry will continue for KAD.

Ms. McCubbin announced that Ms. Harris and Ms. Niehaus were selected to serve as members at large on the executive committee. Ms. Harris accepted the position.

A discussion was held regarding the implementation of a shared Google Drive for commission documents and sharing quarterly reports. Mr. Evans offered to assist with the technical setup. Ms. Dowd noted that using the Google Drive is optional and not mandatory for commissioners.

**THE CHAIR'S REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

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## Agency Report

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Ms. Dowd then presented the Agency Report. She began by clarifying the report's format, explaining that KCDHH's activities are tied to the 2024-2026 strategic plan goals, which are listed on the first page of the report.

Ms. Dowd first reported on a successful presentation at the annual dementia conference held by the Department of Aging and Independent Living, which highlighted the significant link between hearing loss and aging. She noted that four of the ten signs of dementia match signs of hearing loss, and there is a growing body of research showing a correlation between the two.

Ms. Dowd then discussed the potential for federal funding cuts to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. Ms. Roof added that while the funding situation is uncertain, newborn hearing screening is mandated by state law in Kentucky and will continue regardless of federal funding. Ms. Dowd also mentioned that the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has now tasked EHDI programs with responsibility for language acquisition, leading to the formation of a new language acquisition work group in Kentucky. The group has also begun collaborating with the Regional Early Acquisition of Language (REAL) program who focuses on fostering early language development for deaf and hard of hearing children and is based at the Alabama School for the Deaf.

Ms. Dowd emphasized the importance of seeing hearing loss as a public health issue and expressed her intention to educate the public, stating that hearing loss is often viewed exclusively as a disability issue. She shared some statistics, noting that approximately 15.5% of Kentuckians (one in six people) have a hearing loss, making it the third largest health issue in the Commonwealth after heart disease and arthritis.

Ms. Roof connected the issue to the Governor's "Healthy Kentucky Home" initiative, particularly its focus on decreasing social isolation. Mr. Evans emphasized the need to involve major stakeholders, such as state physician groups and legislators, to push for systemic change, referencing stalled legislation for insurance coverage of hearing aids. Both Ms. Perry and Ms. Harris noted the increasing social isolation among the deaf community, contrasting the large social gatherings of the past with the present-day reliance on technology.

In response, Mr. Smith suggested organizing more social events across the Commonwealth to combat isolation and better understand community needs. Ms. McCubbin proposed tangible actions, such as writing a letter to the editor for statewide distribution and creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) with help from media contacts. Ms. Dowd stressed the importance of stakeholders like KSD, Heuser, and Lexington Hearing and Speech presenting a unified message that hearing loss is a public health emergency.

Ms. Roof suggested pursuing a Governor's proclamation for Deaf Awareness Month and developing a strategic public health campaign that shares personal stories, which are more memorable than data. Mr. Evans agreed.

The discussion concluded with a consensus that a more organized, unified effort is needed to raise public awareness and affect change.

**THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

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**Old Business/New Business/Open Forum**

Ms. McCubbin began by reporting that a subcommittee is being formed to continue discussions on the board restructuring, with the goal of presenting information at the next commission meeting.

Ms. Dowd addressed comments from her evaluation regarding community events, clarifying that the agency's mandate is for systemic advocacy, not direct service or event hosting. She announced a major project to rebuild the KCDHH website to comply with federal accessibility requirements by a 2026 deadline. This project will involve simplifying content and eliminating over a thousand PDF documents, which are not friendly to deaf-blind users.

Ms. Dowd briefly presented the annual Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) report that is submitted to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC).

The commission will again partner with Heuser Hearing Institute for a booth at the State Fair. Ms. Dowd called for commissioners to volunteer. Ms. Perry volunteered.

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**Announcements**

Mr. Smith announced the Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) biennial convention will take place on October 12-13 in Louisville.

Ms. Roof announced that Deaf Awareness Day at the Louisville Zoo, hosted by Kentucky Hands & Voices, will be on August 16. Due to sponsorships, children will receive free tickets, and the immediate families of deaf or hard of hearing children aged three and under will also get free tickets.

Ms. Taylor reminded the board that the HLAA Kentucky Walk4Hearing will be held on September 14 at Tom Sawyer Park in Louisville.

Mr. Smith announced that the Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association (KSDAA) and KAD will hold a joint event on September 6, with a Deaf Night Out featuring an ASL movie on the evening of September 5.

Ms. Roof asked for an update on DeaFest. Ms. Dowd confirmed that KCDHH is planning for its return next year.

**MS. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN. MR. EVANS SECONDED.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.



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# **Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

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**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
186th Executive Board Meeting  
September 12, 2025 via videoconference**

**Executive Board Members Present:** Mona McCubbin, Anita Dowd, Sarah Roof, Michelle Niehaus, Barbie Harris, Melissa Kelly

**Executive Board Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Anita Dowd, Justin Stanley

**Communication Facilitators:** Shannon Grider, Mikayla Qualls

Ms. McCubbin called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. and requested that members review the minutes from the previous Commission Meeting.

**Ms. Roof moved to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Harris seconded. The motion was carried unanimously without further discussion.**

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**COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT**

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Ms. McCubbin began by discussing the proposal to restructure the Commission. She noted that there was a sense of reluctance among the Commissioners to open the statutes. Ms. Niehaus agreed, noting that statutory changes have the potential to endanger the Commission's continuing work.

Ms. Dowd suggested that the matter could be forwarded to an ad-hoc committee to continue refining the proposal. Ms. Harris proposed a small committee of 3-5 members as a manageable number. Ms. Dowd agreed, noting that the current vacancies on the Commission are proving more difficult to fill than initially thought. Ms. Dowd promised to send Ms. McCubbin the proposed list of members for the ad-hoc committee. Ms. McCubbin will schedule a first meeting for the committee.

Moving to the subject of the October Commission meeting, Ms. McCubbin inquired about holding it at the KCDHH offices. Ms. Dowd responded that the conference room recently had a roof leak which required substantial repairs and that the room tends to become too hot when filled to capacity, but that it might be better suited to host the December 12 Executive Board meeting. This would also allow the meeting to be combined with the staff's traditional holiday ornament exchange and potluck. Ms. Dowd will provide all members with the details of the December 12 meeting in the near future.

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**AGENCY REPORT**

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Ms. Dowd began by discussing preparations for DeaFestival. There have been some logistical issues within the Knowledge Center for Deafness which have slowed the process considerably.

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If those issues are not resolved by the end of September, the plan will proceed under a different framework than previous years. The viability of the entire project will have to be determined by the progress that is made in the ensuing month.

KCDHH is partnering with a graduate student in public health on a project to survey the services and communication access provided by local health departments for deaf and hard of hearing citizens. The goal for this project is to create a toolkit for health care providers.

KCDHH recently presented to the Kentucky Office of Victims Advocacy regarding effectively serving deaf and hard of hearing individuals in legal settings. Ms. Dowd is set to present again in October at the Aging/SHIP Conference related to aging and hearing loss.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) National Conference will be held in Louisville in June 2026, in partnership with KCDHH. The exhibit hall will be admission free and open to the public, and KCDHH will be present and offering assistive technology demonstrations.

The distribution of emergency weather radios in partnership with KYEM is in disarray due primarily to personnel turnover at KYEM, which has led to long delays in distribution. Ms. Dowd has asked KYEM to meet in person to discuss the issue and KYEM has agreed.

KCDHH staff recently attended an ASL-interpreted tour at Maker's Mark Distillery, which was filmed by KET for a piece on accessibility. Ms. Dowd was interviewed and used the opportunity to advocate and build connections with both organizations.

Jennifer Hughes and Shelly Moats will present to the Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance on September 16th regarding hearing aid coverage. Information on how to view this hearing will be sent out to Commissioners.

Ms. Dowd plans to attend the Hands & Voices Conference in October and will be the keynote speaker at the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) in Denver, CO later that month.

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## OLD BUSINESS

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Moving to Old Business, Ms. McCubbin asked members what they thought about the utility and format of the quarterly reports initiated by her predecessor, noting her own difficulty in completing the reports.

Ms. Dowd responded that she likes the idea of the reports but found the existing format confusing and difficult to format for readability. She suggested that the reports should be simplified in both form and language, as their purpose is to keep KCDHH and the commissioners informed of things that are taking place in the community. Ms. Harris and Ms. McCubbin agreed, pledging to work with Ms. Dowd and KCDHH staff to develop a more user-friendly report form before the next Commission meeting.

Ms. McCubbin then asked members for feedback on the practice of having a KCDHH staff member or program highlighted at each Commission meeting. Ms. Roof and Ms. Dowd expressed strong support, with Ms. Roof further suggesting that these highlights could be used

for social media content to increase public awareness of KCDHH services. Ms. Dowd agreed but noted that there were safety and privacy concerns in sharing staff information publicly. Ms. Niehaus provided a compromise: focusing the social media content on the program and services rather than on individual staff members, which would address both concerns.

The shared Google Drive was tabled for use by general agreement. It will remain available in case a future need for collaborative work arises.

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## NEW BUSINESS

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Ms. McCubbin asked Ms. Dowd how the Commissioners could support her stated focus of increasing public awareness about hearing loss. Ms. Dowd reiterated that her central strategy is framing hearing loss as a public health issue rather than a disability that is seen as the sole responsibility of particular agencies. She noted that this perception must change to increase the effectiveness of advocacy for communication access, and that this will require a polished, professional campaign.

Unfortunately, the Information Officer position at KCDHH remains vacant due to personnel and budget processes. Ms. Niehaus expressed her sympathy, noting that her own agency has faced similar delays. Ms. Dowd concluded that the campaign is on hold until the Information Officer position can be filled but this will be a priority in next few weeks.

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## OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Ms. Dowd has submitted a press release for Deaf Awareness Month to the Education and Labor Cabinet for their approval.

Ms. Roof reported that Ohio Valley Hands & Voices are partnering with St. Elizabeth Healthcare in northern Kentucky to create a campus offering streamlined services, including audiology and early intervention. The hope is to prevent children with hearing loss from being overlooked by the existing system.

Ms. McCubbin noted that the next full Commission meeting is scheduled for **October 24, 2025 at 12:30 pm**, at the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort.

The next Executive Board meeting will take place on **December 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm**, at the KCDHH office in Frankfort.

**Ms. Harris moved to adjourn, and Ms. Kelly seconded.**

Adjournment: 2:17 pm



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# Agency Report

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## ICON KEY



**Administration**



**Community Support**



**Conference**



**Legislation**



**Meeting**



**Outreach**



**Personnel**



**Presentation**



**Social Media**



**Training Received**



## REQUESTS AND CONTACTS

### **REQUEST:**

When a person or organization asks KCDHH for assistance.

### **CONTACT:**

Interaction between KCDHH staff and the person/organization asking for assistance (and sometimes others) in order to gather additional information, provide appropriate information, services, and resources.

i.e. emails, phone calls, letters, meetings, text messages and other forms of communication.

# Administrative Activities

## BUDGET & PERSONNEL



The proposed biennial budget for FY26/28 has been submitted to the Cabinet to be included in their budget proposal. To ensure the vision for our vacant positions aligns with the goals in that budget, we are reviewing the position descriptions, reclassifying the current titles, and completing the required paperwork. We are now working with a new HR person at the Cabinet level who has been very helpful in guiding us through the process. Once this step is finished, the request will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. After approval by both the Cabinet and Personnel, the positions can then be posted and filled.



The Executive Director and both Information Coordinators have met several times this quarter with the Public Health graduate student and staff from the Department for Public Health to create a survey for Kentucky local health departments to assess their knowledge related to meeting the needs of consumers with hearing loss. Data collected from that survey will be used by the DHH Community Impact Council to create a toolkit for KY health care providers. **(GOAL 3)**



On July 17, the Executive Director and TAP staff met with **Hamilton Relay** to talk about equipment distribution, reporting, broadband challenges, and caption phone usage. Also discussed were ways to work together through presentations, quarterly check-ins, and joint outreach.



The Executive Director and Information Coordinator attended the annual **National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) Policy Summit** in Kansas City, August 6-8. Several states gave updates on their current initiatives. The president of the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) gave a summary of their recent activities, and a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff member spoke about the [FCC ASL video library](#) which has numerous ASL/captioned videos related to various FCC topics. The current interpreter workforce shortage was discussed at length as were the various studies that have been done by several states in an effort to collect data and find solutions. KCDHH is currently reviewing these studies to determine if a similar study should be done in Kentucky or if the work done by these states can be applied here. **(GOAL 4)**



The Executive Director attended the **KY Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Language Acquisition subcommittee** virtual meeting on August 11. The meeting discussed the new Health Resources & Services Administration [\(HRSA\) requirements](#) related to language acquisition for state EHDI programs and ways to address this moving forward. This will be ongoing. **(GOAL 2)**



On August 18, the Executive Director volunteered for [KY Hands & Voices](#) at their annual **Deaf Awareness Day at the Louisville Zoo. (GOAL 5)**



The Executive Director and Information Coordinator attended the **Advisory Committee on the Need for Services for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing** meeting on August 20. The main focus was open discussion about the biennial report. Members of the committee were encouraged to contact their representatives to share and have dialogue about this report. **(GOAL 3)**



The Executive Director and the Information Coordinator were invited to present at the [Kentucky Prosecutors Conference Victim Advocate Training](#) on August 21. The presentation gave victim advocates information and resources to help them effectively advocate for deaf and hard of hearing victims. Approximately 80 advocates from around the state attended the presentation. **(GOAL 4)**



On September 8, the Executive Director, the Information Coordinator, and the Executive Staff Advisor participated in an accessible tour at **Makers Mark Distillery**. The tour was filmed by Kentucky Educational Television (KET) to be included in a [segment](#) spotlighting Makers Mark's effort to provide accessibility to deaf, hard of hearing and visually impaired individuals. The Executive Director did a brief interview and spoke about what the accessible tours meant for those that needed them. **(GOAL 5)**



The Executive Director attended the quarterly **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Board** meeting on September 15. Several members shared updates about their agencies and programs and discussions were had about the upcoming legislative session as well as the possibility of a 2026 EHDI Summit being hosted. **(GOAL 2)**



On September 16, the Executive Director attended the St. Joseph's Health **Patients and Families as Partners (PFAP) Council** virtual meeting. The 'Walk a Mile' program logistics are wrapping up and the formal roll out was discussed. Once the rollout is over, the KCDHH Executive Director will volunteer to pose as an overnight patient to assess how well the St. Joes staff are meeting the needs of deaf and hard of hearing patients. **(GOAL 3)**



On September 16, the Executive Director, Policy Specialist and Information Coordinator attended the **Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance** meeting virtually to watch the testimony of Rep. Samara Heavrin, parent Jennifer Hughes, and Dr. Shelley Moats. The testimony concerned the need for legislation to expand insurance coverage of hearing aids for the children of policy holders. Similar legislation nearly passed in the last legislative session and appears to have broad support in the upcoming session. **(GOAL 3)**



The Executive Director and both Information Coordinators provided webinar training to Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation staff and counselors on September 17. The title of the presentation focused on the role of KCDHH in the public and private sectors and provided scenarios of how KCDHH staff can advocate for deaf and hard of hearing clients when it is outside of OVR's capacity. **(GOAL 2)**



The Executive Director, both Information Coordinators, the Executive Staff Advisor, and the Policy Specialist visited the Lexington law firm of **Sturgill, Turner, Barker and Moloney** at the invitation of their members on September 24. The purpose of the visit was a discussion about the experiences of deaf and hard of hearing people both in the film "CODA" (2021) and in the staff's own lives. There was also discussion related to meeting the needs of deaf and hard of hearing clients. Attorneys attending earned Continuing Legal Education credits. **(GOAL 4)**



The Executive Director, both Information Coordinators, and the Executive Staff Advisor met with KY Emergency Management (KyEM) Operations & Planning Branch Manager and Volunteer Agency Program Coordinator at KCDHH on September 24 to review the **Moore Safe Nights** program logistics, address the transition to a new POC, and explore strategies to streamline processes and reduce consumer wait times for equipment. **(GOAL 4)**



The Executive Director, both Information Coordinators, and the Policy Specialist attended a webinar presented by Gallaudet University and the Prism Group regarding the **Rural Health Transformation Program**, a \$50 billion federal initiative that will direct \$10 billion annually to the states from 2026-2030. The purpose of the webinar was to make state governments aware of the program and the opportunity it presents to address the needs of rural deaf and hard of hearing people. **(GOAL 3)**



The Executive Director, Information Coordinator, and Policy Specialist met with technology staff from the **Legislative Research Commission** regarding their efforts to improve accessibility across their websites to comply with applicable federal laws.



The Executive Director and both Information Coordinators met with the regional representative for the **Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)**, the DeafBlind Coordinator and the Employment Specialist for the DeafBlind with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) virtually on September 29. Discussion focused on ways we could collaborate to help meet the needs of the 57,000 deafblind Kentuckians. This will be an ongoing collaboration.



# Access Center

REQUEST FOR  
INTERPRETER

302

REQUEST FOR  
CAPTIONER

11

CONTACTS

2150

On September 19, KCDHH became an official [Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation \(CASLI\)](#) testing site. This is the only CASLI testing site in Kentucky and will begin providing exams in the next few weeks. KCDHH is also working toward becoming a testing site for the [Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment \(EIPA\)](#).



## Telecommunications Access Program



NATURE	REQUESTS	CONTACTS
Request for Application	93	347
Application Received	213	744
Status Check	43	174
General TAP Inquiry	36	134



The Program Coordinator attended the monthly virtual **Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA) Board** meetings. Recent discussions focused on preparing for the Virtual Business Meeting this fall, planning for the 2026 annual conference, and updates from the NASRA/TEDPA task force.



On September 10, the Program Coordinator attended the [Kentucky Assistive Technology Service \(KATS\) Network Advisory Council](#) meeting. The agenda included an AT presentation, program developments at the Coordinating Center and regional AT resource centers, and agency representatives sharing updates to enhance collaboration and service delivery. Council business also included co-chair voting and planning for future meetings.



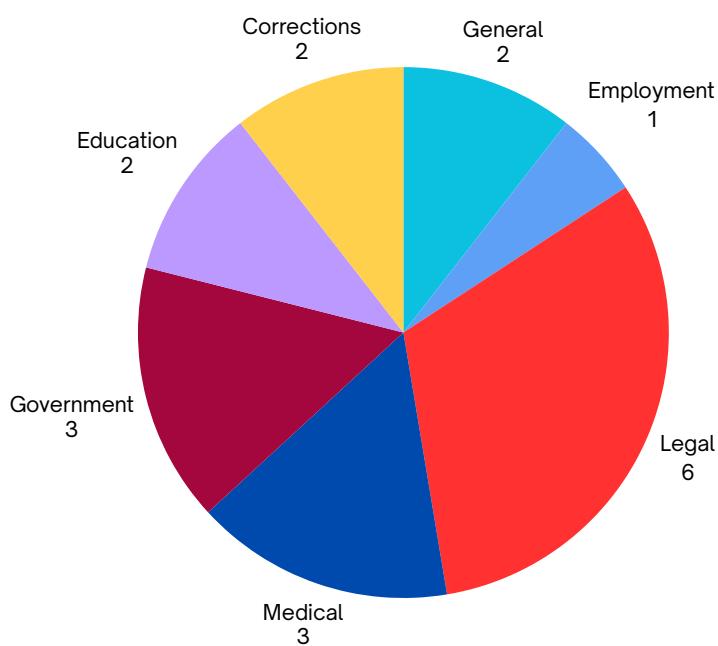
On September 22, the Program Coordinator gave a presentation about KCDHH and the TAP program to deaf and hard of hearing students at **duPont Manual High School** in Louisville.



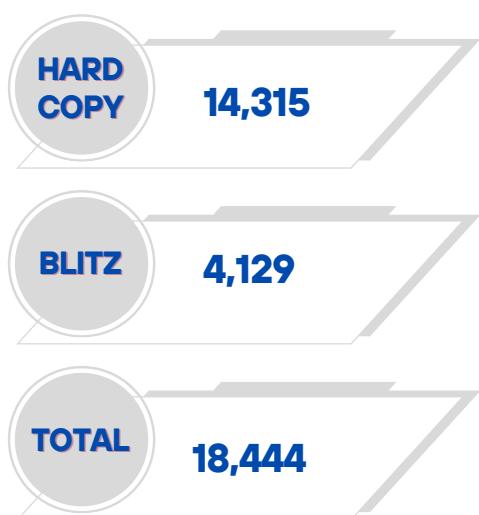
# Information, Referral & Advocacy



NATURE	REQUESTS	CONTACTS
ASL & Linguistics	9	20
Assistive Technology	15	46
Cochlear Implants	1	2
DeaFestival	5	10
Deafness & Hearing Loss	9	18
Education & Employment	5	17
Families & Children	8	25
General KCDHH Inquiry	16	46
Hearing Aid Banks	28	61
Interpreting	12	32
Mailing List	9	18
Mental Health Services	1	10
Moore Safe Nights	17	38
Outreach	2	9
Senior Citizens	1	2
Social & Recreation	3	12
Veterans	1	2
Visor and ICE Card	12	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>397</b>

**ADVOCACY REQUESTS****CONTACTS: 71****WEB HITS****www://****12,770 Visitors****Top 5 pages viewed:**

- 1** Home
- 2** Moore Safe Nights
- 3** Contact Us
- 4** Equipment List
- 5** Hearing Aids

**PR DISSEMINATION****SOCIAL MEDIA****9,159 Followers****48,487 Views****308 Followers****1,213 Views**



On September 16–17, the Program Coordinator and Information Coordinators attended the virtual **[Deaf and Hard of Hearing Accessible Technology: State of the Science Conference](#)** hosted by Gallaudet University's Technology Access Program (TAP). The conference shared updates on new hearing and communication technologies and ways to improve captioning.



The Information Coordinator continued to participate in the monthly **Assistive Technology Convene** on July 17 with other stakeholders within the Appalachia Assistive Technology Loan Fund and Center for Accessible Living. The goal is to enhance access to assistive technology financing across Kentucky. The September meeting was the final convene.



The Information Coordinator and Network Technician II joined an ADA Webinar titled **["That Doesn't Need to be a PDF"](#)** on July 29. The Department of Justice's final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires state agencies to ensure that their websites are accessible for all disabilities. Currently, PDFs are not accessible so the webinar explained how HTML may be the better option for some documents.



The Information Coordinator joined the monthly meeting with the **Navigators of the Commonwealth** on July 30. Stakeholders learned about the [kynect resource system](#) and how it can apply to our job when serving our clients. After the presentation, members went into breakout sessions to discuss various scenarios of how each member can be a resource.

# STRATEGIC GOALS

## GOAL 1: TRANSITION OF AGENCY

Work has begun on creating an adequate and private testing space for administering the CASLI exams.

## GOAL 2: EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT



The Information Coordinator joined the [\*\*Policy in Action: State-Level Innovation with DHH Job Seekers at American Job Centers webinar\*\*](#) hosted by Gallaudet University's Technology Access Program (TAP) on July 30. The goal of the webinar was to highlight the latest research outcomes, demonstrate accessible technologies, and host critical discussions on advancing equity and usability across communication platforms.

## GOAL 3: ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE



The Information Coordinator has been appointed to serve on the **Advisory Committee on the Needs for Services for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing** and met with the Program Administrator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services with the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities for committee orientation on September 2.



The Information Coordinators met with the **Community Impact Council with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** on September 11. The Council was informed about a new opportunity to work with an intern from Ohio University focusing on Kentucky local health departments and its communication policies. The CIC will be working with the intern to create two toolkits that will focus on communication access for in-services and community resources. The council was challenged to start thinking about what needs to go into the toolkits and be ready to discuss that at the next meeting.



The Information Coordinator joined the [\*\*Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act \(OAA\): What's at Stake? webinar\*\*](#) hosted by The John A Hartford Foundation on September 22. The presenters provided an overview of what the OAA's purpose is and the possibility of what is to come with the current administration.

## GOAL 4: SAFE COMMUNITIES



The Information Coordinator is participating in a nine-month virtual **Social Security Webinar series** hosted by the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Meetings were attended on July 24 and August 28. The purpose of this series is to keep agencies updated on anything new related to SSA benefits and services.

# STRATEGIC GOALS

## GOAL 4: SAFE COMMUNITIES, cont.



The Information Coordinator manned an exhibitor booth at the **KY Emergency Services Conference** on September 3 and 4. Conference attendees ranging from emergency responders to public safety officials stopped by the KCDHH booth for information and resources relating to KCDHH and its programs and services.



The Information Coordinator attended the **KY Access and Functional Needs Collaborative** meeting in Frankfort on September 9. Information Support Manager from Massachusetts Department of Public Health provided an informative presentation about the [Show Me for Emergencies app](#), a free mobile app to help communication between emergency workers and people who may have difficulty hearing, speaking, or understanding during an emergency or disaster. The Doctor of Pharmacy from the Kentucky Pharmacists Association also gave a presentation on the role and capabilities of their response team during emergencies. Then the meeting was wrapped up with exciting news that the Medical Shelter Booklet has been approved.



The Information Coordinator attended the **Disaster Preparedness for Parents with Disabilities webinar** hosted by The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy on July 21. This webinar shared tips to help parents with disabilities prepare for disasters. Speakers talked about making an emergency kit, staying safe at home, and knowing your rights. Parents also shared their own experiences with emergency planning.

## GOAL 5: HEARING LOSS AWARENESS



On August 6, the Information Coordinator was invited to do a hearing loss presentation at the **Anderson County Senior Center** on August 6. Senior Citizens were able to learn about hearing loss and gather resources. Information packets with information about KCDHH and additional programs in Kentucky were provided.



KCDHH partnered with Heuser Hearing Institute at the **Kentucky State Fair**, August 14 through August 24. Staff and volunteers were available to share hearing loss resources and information about KCDHH and its programs. Heuser provided hearing screenings and additional resources for the public.