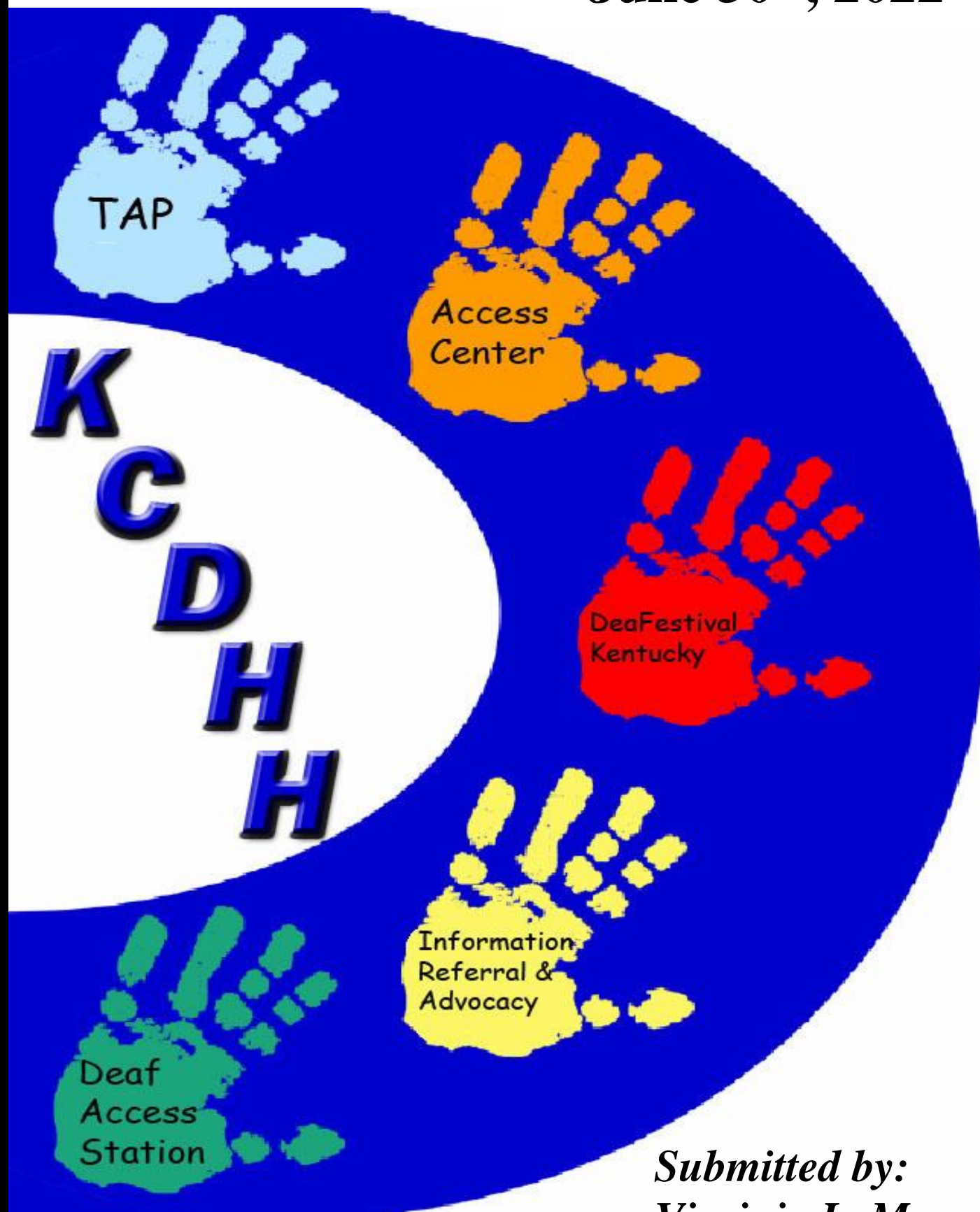


Agency Report

April 1st through
June 30th, 2022



Submitted by:
Virginia L. Moore



KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

GOVERNING 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.

KRS 163.525 (5)

- 5) The Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall establish procedures for application and distribution of specialized telecommunications equipment by the promulgation of administrative regulations in accordance with provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.

2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- Goal 1:** Develop, propose and lobby for legislation to improve services for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Goal 2:** Work with government, public, and private agencies to develop programs and provide services for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Goal 3(a):** Review statewide programs, established through legislation, which relate to services for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Goal 3(b):** Research conditions affecting the quality of life of the deaf and hard of hearing.
- Goal 4:** Oversee the provision of qualified interpreters and captioning services.
- Goal 5:** Oversee the implementation and operation of the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP).

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Cabinet Merge

Effective July 1, 2022, the Labor and Education Workforce Cabinet merged into one and is now the Education and Labor Cabinet. Jamie Link is the new Secretary and is from the Labor Cabinet. With the new merger came new procedures in the following areas of personnel (hiring procedures) and finances (budgetary procedures). A lot of work has gone into making this a smooth transition. However, we anticipate some hiccups as we all get used to new procedures.

Legislation

During the 2020 Legislative session pursuant to House Bill 1, Part I (D)(1)(7) (“The Budget”), has allocated a total of \$3 million to The Heuser Hearing Institute to develop a program to close the education and achievement gaps for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. KCDHH has been consulted regarding this project and provided input on the memorandum of understanding (MOA) established between the Labor and Education Cabinet and The Heuser Hearing Institute. The intent of this phase of the project is to establish a pilot project to conduct hearing screenings and education trainings regarding hearing aids and hearing health. The pilot project will also involve screening kids in school districts with low hearing screenings.

(1.1 Lobby for and support legislation developed by other entities that directly impacts the lives of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards, and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

(3.3(a) Monitor legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)

Budget

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is drawing to a close. For the first time, we anticipate rollover funds in our restricted funds. This is a result of restricted outreach and the back order of equipment during COVID. KCDHH will be able to use the rollover funds to fill orders as they come in during the 2022-2023 budget cycle.

Personnel

KCDHH currently has two vacant positions within the agency:

- Policy Specialist – Interviews have been completed and we are waiting for personnel to allow us to offer the position.
- Administrative Secretary – This position was vacated in June and we are currently hunting a replacement.
- Document Processing Specialist – We have applicants for this position and are awaiting approval to interview

Governor's Prayer Breakfast



The Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist interpreted the Governor's Prayer Breakfast on April 13. After a two-year COVID hiatus, the event was held in Frankfort on the Capitol grounds. The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing also attended.

The Ukrainian Pentecostal Church of Lexington choir performed and Oscar Tshiebwe, the University of Kentucky star basketball player and consensus national player of the year, delivered the keynote speech.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

Database Meeting

The KCDHH Staff continue to work with the Database team at the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) to make changes to improve collection of statistical information. Therefore, staff is once again unable to accurately pull data.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(3.8(b) Compile information regarding programs, services and barriers that impact the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

Communication Access during COVID-19

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Interpreter and the Interpreter Referral Specialist continue to provide interpreting services for the Governor's COVID updates. Updates are now only once a week on Thursdays at 12:30. This is a COVID update and a State of Kentucky update.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(3.8(b) Compile information regarding programs, services and barriers that impact the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(4.1 Use a comprehensive approach to coordinate communication access services.)

(4.5 Promote awareness of the Access Center's services within state government.)

DeaFestival 2022 Planning Committee Meetings and Updates



During the past quarter, the KCDHH DeaFestival planning committee has spent a great deal of time and effort meeting with multiple Danville Community leaders and vendors to ensure things are in place prior to DeaFestival. Outside of that, on April 18, the KCDHH staff a DeaFestival focus meeting was at Centre College's Norton Center for the Arts. The staff was delegated their duties, participated in a detailed walkthrough of the facilities outlining where events will take place, and discussed logistical needs. On May 4, KCDHH hosted a DeaFestival Danville Community Members meeting at Norton Center for the Arts. The group consisted of key community stakeholders, such as the Executive Director of Danville-Boyle County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), Centre College leaders, Executive Director of the

Arts Commission of Danville-Boyle County, and community leaders. During this past quarter the DeaFestival Interpreter Coordinator also met with the DeaFestival Deaf Blind Coordinator at the Norton Center for the Arts to do a walk through and to discuss the logistical needs and interpreter schedules.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)





ACCESS CENTER ACTIVITIES

DCBS Stakeholder Group Meeting

The Language*Access*Communication*Empowerment*Support (LACES), which was formally the Supporting Kentucky Youth (SKY) Value Added Benefits (VAB) project, met three times this past quarter. The stakeholder group which came out of the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) collaboration is now only focused on the pilot project, LACES, the project is aimed at increasing language access and development for children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind and in out of home care/foster care with DCBS. LACES will offer Communication Skills Assessments, reports with recommendations for language access and development for those involved in the child's care, and have Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Guides to work with the foster families, biological families, other placements, and youth. The stakeholders group met on April 20 and reviewed the project's workflow from start to finish after a family has been accepted. Also, they discussed updates on the DHH guide training, hosted by the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHBDID) and presenters from the national Hands & Voices Headquarters. To kickoff the training, the stakeholders were invited to the morning session on May 1, along with the DHH guides, to learn about the Hands & Voices philosophy, the DHH Guide program, and how LACES will be adapting the program. KCDHH Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended as stakeholders. On May 26, the LACES stakeholders group met to recap what was learned from the training and expressed wanting continued training on how to improve outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the foster care system in Kentucky. The group also reviewed the Laces Communication Skills Assessment Referral Form.

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

(4.1 Use a comprehensive approach to coordinate communication access services.)

(4.4 Partner with public, private and state entities to improve policies regarding communication access.)

CASLI Testing Site



During this quarter, the Interpreter I/Local Test Administrator (LTA) has administered five (5) National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Interview and Performance exams on April 8, April 29, and three (3) on May 13. This spike can be attributed to the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) retiring this exam on May 18, 2022. CASLI posted on their website an estimated release date for the new performance exam in June 2022. However, that release was unsuccessful. They have also updated their website with more details about what is to come – in regards to testing/results, candidate's cycles, purchased exams expiration dates, and job openings within CASLI.

(4.2 Partner with national, state and local organizations to provide national certification opportunities.)

(4.3 Educate interpreters and promote current interpreting standards.)

Kentucky Board of Interpreters Regulations and Policy Committee Meeting

On April 7, the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) Policy Committee met through zoom. This was an introductory meeting as the two members at large still need to be appointed by the Board. The KCDHH Executive Director was appointed Chair of this committee. The Interpreter Referral Specialist and Staff Interpreter also attended. The KBI Board plans to have the two at-large members appointed by the June 7 meeting. Once they are appointed, another Policy Committee meeting will be arranged to provide feedback and recommend changes before submitting them for the Administrative Regulation Promulgation Process.

(4.3 Educate interpreters and promote current interpreting standards.)

(4.4 Partner with public, private and state entities to improve policies regarding communication access.)

(4.6 Partner with state, public and private organizations to recruit, develop and retain a diverse interpreting community.)

Bowen Elementary School Presentation

On April 25, the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended Bowen Elementary School's fifth grade reading event and shared diversity in language. One of the student's mothers read two books aloud. The Interpreter Referral Specialist interpreted the book in American Sign Language (ASL) and the other was interpreted in Spanish. Then the Interpreter Referral Specialist explained KCDHH's role and how to become a sign language interpreter.

(4.4 Partner with public, private and state entities to improve policies regarding communication access.)

Kentucky Board of Interpreters Meeting



On June 7, the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) held its regulatory meeting. During this meeting, the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Professional Licensing, Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet, announced the Board's new legal counsel and that board members will be receiving a state email address soon. The Commissioner also emphasized the deadlines for licensure renewals since the COVID state of emergency ended on March 21. The 60-day grace period for 2021 licensure renewals is June 19, 2022 and late fees for the 2021 renewal is August 18, 2022. Due to the lack of a quorum at the prior emergency meeting, the Board, at this meeting, selected two deaf representatives to join the KBI Policy Committee to review regulations. Several applications for temporary license extensions were reviewed and were either passed or denied. Due to lack of time, the Board tabled the topics of fees and temporary license licensing Issues.

(4.3 Educate interpreters and promote current interpreting standards.)

(4.4 Partner with public, private and state entities to improve policies regarding communication access.)

(4.6 Partner with state, public and private organizations to recruit, develop and retain a diverse interpreting community.)

KEHP Workshop

On June 12, the Interpreter Referral Specialist attended a workshop provided by the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) on June 15, "Empowering Parents to Address Challenging Behaviors at Home." This workshop focused on identifying the reason for the challenging behavior, how to implement the appropriate strategies based on the reason, the power of prevention and skill development, and how to build on the progress over time.

(4.4 Partner with public, private and state entities to improve policies regarding communication access.)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council Meeting

The Program Coordinator attended the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Advisory Council meeting on April 21, held via Microsoft Teams. Hamilton Relay provided members with an update on outreach virtually and in-person efforts during the last six months, and upcoming plans for partnerships with KCDHH and other agencies. Hamilton advised that traditional TRS minutes are going down significantly, but Captioned call minutes are increasing in greater numbers. The new Public Service Commission representative was introduced.

(2.5 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(5.1 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)

TAP Advisory Board Meeting

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board meeting on April 21 was cancelled, due to not enough members for a quorum.

The TAP Program Coordinator and TAP Chair also met on June 22 to discuss the applicants that were approved, to develop a plan on when to do orientation, and when to schedule the TAP Advisory Board Meeting.

(2.5 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(5.1 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)

Emerging Leaders Program Meetings



On May 16, the Program Coordinator completed a final project presentation to the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) panel, a resource guide, "Hiring Deaf and Hard of Hearing Employees." This resource manual is a guide for employers in the hiring process of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.



The Program Coordinator and Executive Director attended the closing ceremony of ELP on June 1. The Program Coordinator received a completion certificate from the Cabinet Secretary. She was one of 15 employees chosen to participate in the one-year ELP to develop talent and create a pipeline of up-and-coming leaders.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(2.5 Educate state agencies, government branches, organizations and the public on Federal and State laws regarding hearing loss.)

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

KATS Network Advisory Council Meetings



The Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Council on June 9 at Charles McDowell Center in person. The meeting included updates on the KATS Coordinating Center, Assistive Technology (AT) Center, and Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP) activities, as well as Coordinating Center activities and the Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology (CARAT) project. They also discussed the Assistive Technology Conference that is coming up on September 8-10 and discussed ideas on how to promote the Assistive Technology Center better by bringing AT to existing camps that are being held in Kentucky.

(5.2 Maintain Partnerships with national organizations and the current Telecommunications Relay Provider to supply the most current and technologically advanced equipment and apps.)

TEAM KENTUCKY



INFORMATION, REFERRAL & ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program



During this quarter, the Executive Staff Advisor and both Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing successfully completed the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program (ACTCP). This program is designed to meet the training and professional needs of ADA Coordinators. The ACTCP certification verifies that participants have completed training in required content areas and have a depth of knowledge in ADA issues. Upon completion of the program, ACTCP certifies a knowledge-base essential to performing the role of an ADA Coordinator.

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(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(2.5 Educate state agencies, government branches, organizations and the public on Federal and State laws regarding hearing loss.)

KSD Career Day



The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended Kentucky School for the Deaf's (KSD) Career Day on April 1 in Danville. KSD Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn about different careers for their project. After a question and answer session, all the professionals formed into panels and discussed their training, work experiences, and advice for the students. Panelists had diverse careers, including high school/university American Sign Language (ASL) teachers, mental health counselors, owner of a lawn mowing company, and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and KCDHH state employees.

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(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(2.5 Educate state agencies, government branches, organizations and the public on Federal and State laws regarding hearing loss.)

University of Louisville Educational Audiology presentation

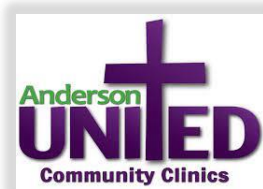


The Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation titled, "Deaf Culture 101," to a Pediatric Audiology class at the University of Louisville on April 7. The presentation took a look at deaf culture and some of the factors that make it a true culture. The presentation also shared information on best practices in working with children with a hearing loss.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.6 Advocate for equal access to education for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, cradle to grave.)

Anderson United



The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Interpreter I attended the annual Anderson United on April 23 in Lawrenceburg. Anderson United was made possible by partnering with various health clinics to provide screenings for low income families in the county. A booth was set up in conjunction with the audiology screening

provided by the University of Kentucky's audiology and speech language pathologist students. General information was available for families who have concerns related to hearing loss.

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(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards, and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Health and Medical Preparedness Advisory Committee (HMPAC) Meeting



The Information Office Supervisor attended a virtual meeting of the Health and Medical Preparedness Advisory Committee on April 26. A general update on COVID-19 was given by several partnering agencies, including local health departments, the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, and the Kentucky Hospital Association. A report on the Kentucky Harm Reduction Initiative was discussed and

August 10-11 was announced as the annual Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit. The meeting concluded with partnering agencies giving reports.

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(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards, and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

National ADA Network Symposium – Virtual



The Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the virtual American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium hosted by the National ADA Network on May 10 to May 13. Workshops covered effective

communication in healthcare, correctional facilities, and the state welfare program for children along with other disabilities. During the workshop that focused on effective communication for children in the state welfare program, Kentucky was mentioned as one of the states that works to improve communication access for children who are in the system. The Coordinators attended these workshops to earn CEUs to maintain the requirements for ADA Coordinator certification.

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(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Guide training



On May 13 & 14, the Executive Staff Advisor attended a Deaf & Hard of Hearing Guide training conducted by Hands & Voices Headquarters. This training was the first step of a new pilot project called, LACES (Language*Access*Communication*Empowerment*Support) which is aimed at increasing language access and development for children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind and in out of home care/foster care with the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS). The LACES project was created in a collaboration between Aetna, Kentucky Hands & Voices, and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, & Intellectual Disabilities. LACES will offer Communication Skills Assessments, reports with recommendations for language access and development for those involved in the child's care, and DHH Guides to work with the foster families, biological families, other placements, and the youth.

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

(2.4 Create and promote awareness about programs and services to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

(2.6 Advocate for equal access to education for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, cradle to grave.)

University of Kentucky Pediatric Audiology presentation



On June 2, the Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation titled, "Journey of the Butterflies", to a pediatric audiology graduate class at the University of Kentucky. The presentation focused on working with diverse deaf and hard of hearing children and the importance of keeping a focus on the whole child and not just the audiological issues. Best practices from the Joint Commission on Infant Hearing was also discussed.

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KATLC Quarterly Meetings



The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the quarterly Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) board meeting virtually on June 8. As of this date, KATLC does not have a lender partner and cannot offer loans until that is completed. The board reviewed outstanding balances with the previous lender. The board discussed virtual or in person options for future board meetings. Once the lending partner is approved and KATLC starts issuing loans, in-person board meetings will be necessary to conduct the board business. The next board meeting will be September 14.

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(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Governors Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting



On June 20, the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) meeting which took place at the Galt House during the Early Childhood Institute. Program updates were given by the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Headstart Collaboration office, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Division of Child Care and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Public Health. The Kentucky Childhood Standards were officially introduced during this Early Childhood Institute and a presentation was given showing the new user friendly website design.

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(2.5 Educate state agencies, government branches, organizations and the public on Federal and State laws regarding hearing loss.)

(2.6 Advocate for equal access to education for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, cradle to grave.)

(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards, and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Public Relations Output

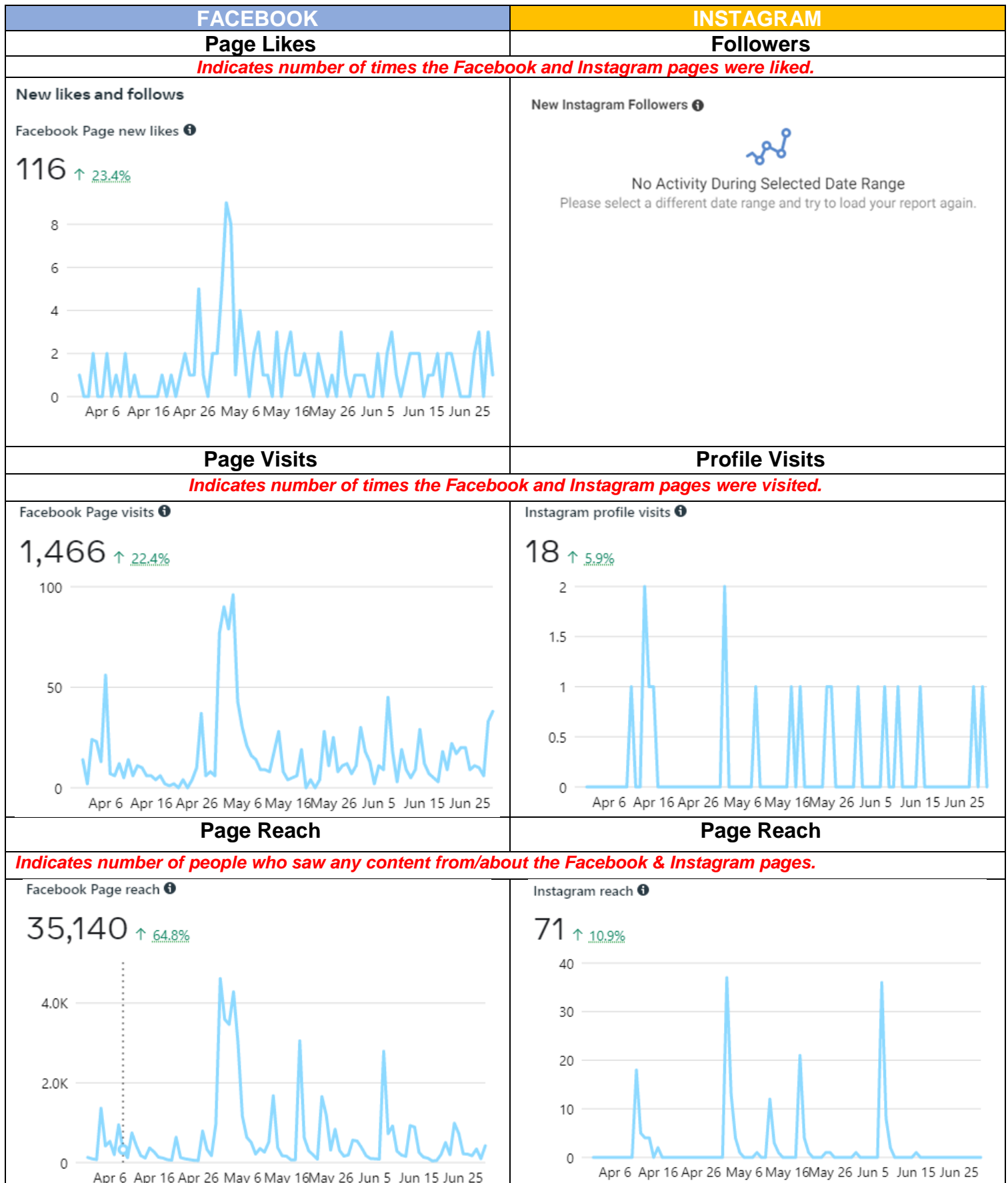
The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by KCDHH. This quarter, **6,131** informational and public relations items were distributed.

PR Dissemination	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	550
Blitz	5,581
TOTAL	6,131

(2.1 Work in partnership with media, state and local entities/agencies, and public/private organizations to create awareness about hearing loss and the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.)

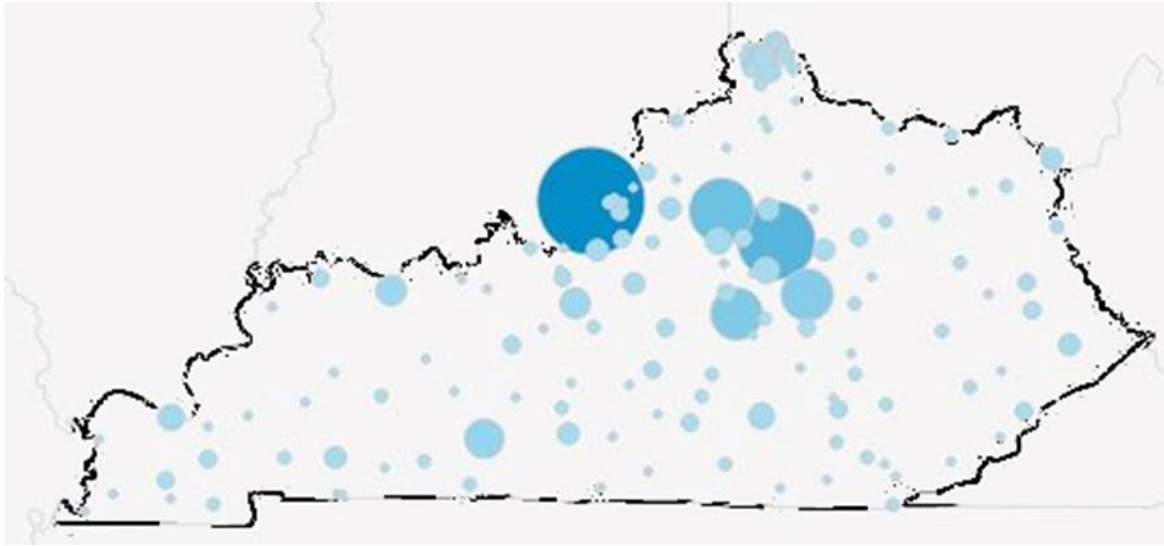
(3.2(a) Advise state agencies and private committees, boards and taskforces in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Social Media Graphs: April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2



KCDHH Web Counter Hits: April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

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



We have had 12,769 visitors from Kentucky this quarter, which represents a 4.26% decrease in visitors over the previous quarter (13,337). The top 5 pages at our website that attracted the most attention this quarter were the front page of our website, the DeaFestival page, the request forms page, the Calendar of Events page, and TAP's "What Kind of Equipment Should I Choose?" page.

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(2.5 Educate state agencies, government branches, organizations and the public on Federal and State laws regarding hearing loss.)

TEAM KENTUCKY