

Use the **past** to change the **future!**

As we journey through life, we all try to do the right thing either personally or as society dictates. We are never really sure how our actions may lead us down a path; however, when we look back in history, we can see the path we have taken and how it has shaped our future. There will always be those times which we consider to be “the good life”, “our sad times”, or “changing times” and those times in our lives that shape history and can never be forgotten.

What we are convinced of today as being the “right thing to do” may be perceived differently when future generations look back on us. Recently, we were able to identify such a time. Prior to the 1960’s at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), African Americans attending KSD were taught in a one room school house, separated from the white students. When those students reached the age of 21, or completed the required lessons, they were asked to leave the school without recognition of completing their education. While other students were going through graduation ceremonies, the African American students were simply packing up their clothes to return to their respective hometown. The Kentucky Association for the Deaf (KAD) brought this injustice to the attention of KCDHH. We then talked to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and they took action with the Board of Education. On August 3, 2011 a graduation ceremony took place for 75 African American individuals identified to have attended and completed requirements at KSD between 1930 – 1955. Kentucky Board of Education Chair, David Karem, said, “The stain of segregation and denial of rightfully earned recognition cannot be completely erased by issuing these diplomas, but we hope that this action – and our sincere apologies – will bring long-deserved closure for former students.”

Out of the 75 former students only 9 were able to attend in person, with one individual coming from as far away as Chicago to participate. This event was attended by the Kentucky Board of Education members, Commissioner Holliday, KAD Representatives, KCDHH representatives, current and former KSD students and members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

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Individuals who received diplomas at the ceremony were:

John Henry Brown	Emerson Lee Clay
Oscar Hamilton	Emma Bell Hill Heard
Marilyn B. Allen Jones	Pearlene Briscoe Mollett
Richard David Riley	Norma Jean Williams
Beatrice Mollet Woodson (accepted by Henry Woodson)	



Commission Members**Nina Coyer, Chair**

Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Rebecca Crawford

AARP Representative

Joe Scott

Service Provider
Representative

Susan Brown

Kentucky Speech, Language &
Hearing Association
Representative

Becky Bush

Parent Representative

Dr. Patricia Freeman

Member at Large
Representative

John Horsley

Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

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Education and Workforce
Development Cabinet Secretary

Michelle Niehaus

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Amy Hatzel

Kentucky Registry of Interpreters
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Marilyn Fenwick

Hearing Loss Association of America
Representative

Barbie Harris

Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

David Bayersdorfer

Alexander Graham Bell
Representative

change...

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KAD, KDE and KCDHH continue to mark this monumental moment by encouraging other states to look into their past and “right this wrong”. KCDHH is in dialogue with the National Association of the Deaf, who plans to also encourage other state schools to follow Kentucky’s lead.

Taking on the responsibility of saying “we made a mistake” is not easy and we commend KDE, along with the Board of Education and David Karem, for having the courage to face our past and right a wrong!

Journeys lead us in many directions, but within the blink of an eye we find ourselves somewhere else, wondering if what we did or how we felt was the right thing at the time. Knowing how easily we can mistakenly think we are right in our judgments, I ask you a question. Will we always be able to “right our wrongs”?

Recently on the Today Show I saw a story about a young woman who received a new device to help her hear. The device is called the Esteem Hearing Implant. I thought to myself, “What an interesting name.” My first impression was do those who are deaf or hard of hearing have low self-esteem? Will all individuals be judged by whether or not they choose to utilize this device? Will we judge those who DO choose to implant the device as being “different” from us? If history repeats itself, then the answer is YES we will judge now, segregate now, and later try to right the wrong. Meantime there is a lot of hurt being inflicted. Instead, why don’t we try to remember the mistakes of the past, of judging someone based on their outward appearance rather than the strength of their nature? Work together as a community to become stronger, rather than dividing ourselves and becoming weaker.

As we look into the past we realize that those times back in the 1960s “were what they were”, and we need to forgive and heal all wounds. But let’s take that knowledge and look to the changing future with acceptance rather than judgment so there won’t be as many “wrongs” to take care of in the future.

TAP GOES WEST

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) purchased six beautifully hand-crafted wooden cabinets that were especially designed to display current Specialized Telephone Equipment (STE) distributed by the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP).

These cabinets will be housed in various offices around the state in order to give Kentuckians the opportunity to see what’s available and better determine what meets their personal needs when applying to receive equipment from the TAP.

Two KCDHH staff members traveled west to deliver a cabinet to its new home at the the Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center (WKATC) in Owensboro. Kris Sandefur, the WKATC Director, was thrilled to have the cabinet placed at the center. Kris will be available to help consumers test the equipment and fill out applications.

To view the cabinet or learn more about WKATC you can contact:

Wendell Foster Campus
815 Triplett Street
Owensboro, KY 42302
(270) 689-1738

www.wkatc.org ❖ wkate@wfcampus.org

ON THE READY

Recent disasters send us warning to be prepared. We watch reports of earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, droughts, flooding and wildfires on the news, but are we heeding Mother Nature's warnings? Are we ready? The EF-5 tornado that ravaged Joplin, Mo. funneled down and uprooted trees in merely six seconds. Six seconds. That's not even enough time to realize what is actually happening.

We tend to think that the government will take care of us, or we can just call 9-1-1. However, during Hurricane Katrina, there was no 9-1-1.

Some emergency personnel did not report for duty and 9-1-1 calls were actually routed out of state. Depending on the disaster, emergency personnel may not be able to respond and provide relief. The question remains.... Are we ready?

Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of the individual. Emergency personnel

and first responders will do just that – respond. After the incident they will provide support with the resources that are available, but what if the responders cannot get to you? What if resources are exhausted? What if there is no clean water to get? What if food resources are empty? What if you are completely cut off (for example, the expected New Madrid Fault in Western Kentucky)? Once the tornado or earthquakes strikes, it is too late to pack. We must prepare now. So how do we prepare? We begin by packing enough food, water and supplies per person to last 10 days. Some articles advise to pack for three days, but recent articles strongly advice 10 days. Better safe than sorry.

Below are websites to find more in-depth information, recommendations, supply lists and resources.

- www.ready.gov/america/index.html
- www.americanfamilysafety.com/
- www.fema.gov
- www.fema.gov/kids
- www.prepare.org/home/

We always think, "That won't happen to me. It will happen to the other guy." Remember, to the other person, YOU are the "other guy!" No excuses. Be ready!



Guide By Your Side Arrives in Kentucky

Kentucky Hands & Voices is pleased to announce the start of their Guide By Your Side (GBYS) program. GBYS provides unbiased, emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Every parent guide is the parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Through direct peer connections, Guides promote self-efficacy and reduce isolation by exploring their common bond, shared experiences, wisdom and insight. Guides provide access to local, national and web-based resources. By providing information and resources, Guides empower families to make decisions that are right for their child and their family. Three Parent Guides have been added to their staff, one in each of the following locations; Louisville, Bowling Green and Lexington. Six families are currently enrolled in the program and they are anxious to touch more families.

If you would like to learn more about Kentucky Hands & Voices or the Guide By Your Side program, please check out the website at www.kyhandsandvoices.org or contact them at info@kyhandsandvoices.org or 1-888-398-5030.





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a presentation, contact Holly**

Holly Elkins

Project Endeavor Outreach Specialist
Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, East Missouri, West Ohio
helkins@c-s-d.org



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ART CONTEST!!

COMMUNICATION ♦ EVERY WORD MATTERS

FOR WHO?

We encourage ALL Kentucky deaf and hard of hearing students in K-12 to participate.

WHAT IS IT?

KCDHH decided that a new generation of artist needs to be represented. This project is a contest for deaf and of hearing students to submit a design of a visual image or poetry that should be created to emphasize the theme, "Communication: Every Word Matters."

DEADLINE?

January 31, 2012

WILL THIS BE JUDGED?

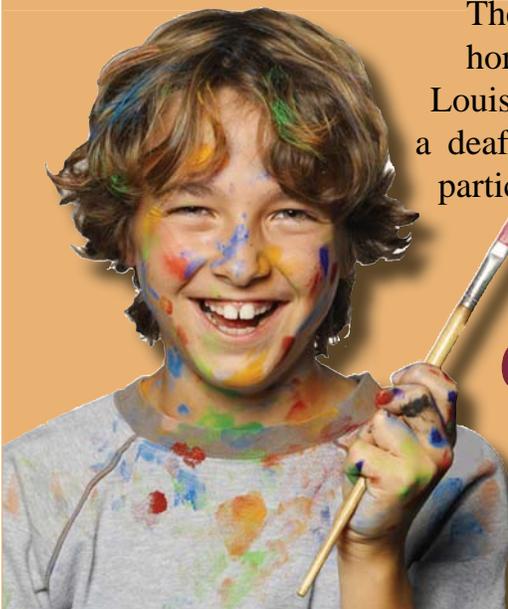
Yes! Three professional art jurors will select two entries in each of the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels. Those six who will be selected will be notified by March 1, 2012

THEN WHAT?

The six selected will duplicate their design on the small fiberglass horse at the National Association of the Deaf conference in Louisville during the week of July 3-7, 2012. Melody Bock-Freeman, a deaf professional artist, will be on site to instruct the selected participants on how to duplicate their work.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION OR CONTEST RULES?

Go to KCDHH.KY.GOV for details of contest rules and download the entry form (located in the brochure) or call KCDHH at 1-800-372-2907 (V/T).



HOSPITALS AND THE A.D.A.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), hospitals must provide effective means of communication for patients, family members, and hospital visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The ADA applies to all hospital programs and services, such as emergency room care, inpatient and outpatient services, surgery, clinics, educational classes, and cafeteria and gift shop services. Wherever patients, their family members, companions, or members of the public are interacting with hospital staff, the hospital is obligated to provide effective communication.

Exchanging written notes or pointing to items for purchase will likely be effective communication for brief and relatively simple face-to-face conversations, such as a visitor's inquiry about a patient's room number or a purchase in the gift shop or cafeteria.

Written forms or information sheets may provide effective communication in situations where there is little call for interactive communication, such as providing billing and insurance information or filling out admission forms and medical history inquiries.

For more complicated and interactive communications, such as a patient's discussion of symptoms with medical personnel, a physician's presentation of diagnosis and treatment options to patients or family members, or a group therapy session, it may be necessary to provide a qualified sign language interpreter or other qualified interpreter.

Hospitals may need to provide an interpreter or other assistive service in a variety of situations where it is a family member or companion rather than the patient who is deaf or hard of hearing. For example, an interpreter may be necessary to communicate where the guardian of a minor patient is deaf, to discuss prognosis and treatment options with a patient's spouse or partner who is hard of hearing, or to allow meaningful participation in a birthing class for a prospective new father who is deaf.

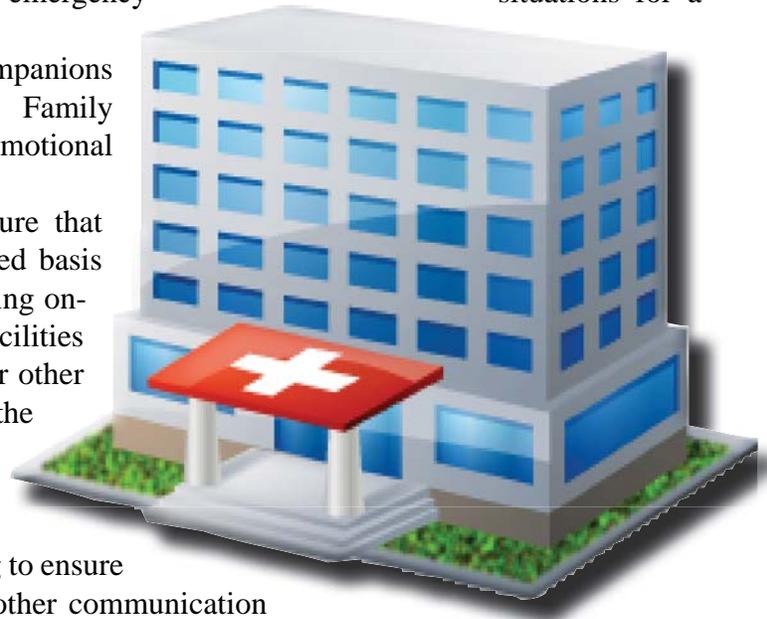
Individuals with hearing disabilities have different communication skills and the hospital should consult with each individual to determine what aids or services are necessary to provide effective communication in particular situations.

Sign language or other interpreters must be qualified. An interpreter is qualified if he or she can interpret competently, accurately, and impartially. In the hospital setting, the interpreter must be familiar with any specialized vocabulary used and must be able to interpret medical terms and concepts. Hospital personnel who have a limited familiarity with sign language should interpret only in emergency situations for a brief time until a qualified interpreter can be present.

It is inappropriate to ask family members or other companions to interpret for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. Family members may be unable to interpret accurately in the emotional situation that often exists in a medical emergency.

Hospitals should have arrangements in place to ensure that qualified interpreters are readily available on a scheduled basis and on an unscheduled basis with minimal delay, including on-call arrangements for after-hours emergencies. Larger facilities may choose to have interpreters on staff. For training or other educational services offered to patients or members of the public, additional aids and services such as note takers, captioned videos, and assistive listening systems may be necessary for effective communication.

Hospitals should develop protocols and provide training to ensure that staff know how to obtain interpreter services and other communication aids and services when needed by persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.



If telephones and televisions are provided in patient rooms, the hospital must provide patients who are deaf or hard of hearing comparable accessible equipment upon request, including TTY's, telephones that are hearing-aid compatible and have volume control, and televisions with closed captioning or decoders.

Visual alarms are not required in patient rooms. However, hospital evacuation procedures should include specific measures to ensure the safety of patients and visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing.

A hospital need not provide communication aids or services if doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods or services offered or would result in an undue burden.

You may view or download ADA information on the ADA website, which provides access to the ADA Business Connection, ADA design standards, regulations, policy letters, technical assistance materials, and general ADA information. It also provides links to other Federal agencies and news about new ADA requirements and enforcement efforts.

www.ada.gov

If you have specific questions concerning the ADA, call the Department of Justice ADA Information Line.

(800) 514-0301 (voice)

(800) 514-0383 (TTY)

Information taken from:

U.S. Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act
 Communicating with People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Hospital Settings
 ADA Business Brief

WHAT DO I DO?!

If you or someone you love must spend time in the hospital, here are some things you can do to help ensure that the necessary accommodations are received.

- ❖ If you are scheduled for surgery or procedures in advance, be sure to ask the person that schedules you who you should contact to request accommodations, then follow through.
- ❖ Be sure to let the hospital know which accommodation works best for you, if you need an interpreter you may even want to give them the name and number of where they can locate one.
- ❖ Request accommodations as far in advance as possible. It takes time to schedule interpreters and arrange other accommodations.
- ❖ If you have an emergency and show up at the hospital unannounced, ask the nurse who you need to speak with for accommodations. Most hospitals have a patient advocate or consumer advocate on staff that know how to get accommodations in place.
- ❖ If the nurse does not know or refuses to tell you then you should ask to speak with the head nurse or someone in administration.
- ❖ Keep in mind that it may take some time before an interpreter can arrive so please be patient.
- ❖ If you are still refused reasonable accommodation you can contact KCDHH to advocate on your behalf.

KCDHH supports the use of Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) for emergency and temporary purposes, NOT as a substitute for an on-site interpreter.



KCDHH

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The Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Kentucky

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing currently has a study group that is focusing on the education of our deaf and hard of hearing students here in Kentucky

The purpose of this study group is to identify gaps in services and to ensure the best education for all deaf and hard of hearing students, regardless of their placement.

We are reaching out to our public and asking that you send us your experiences.

Were you a deaf or hard of hearing student here in Kentucky?

Do you or did you have a child with a hearing loss in the

public school system? At the Kentucky School for the Deaf? Were you satisfied with your services? Do you feel your child deserved more? Did you feel at ease with the system? Overwhelmed? Did you feel that you had someone you could turn to for help?

Please help us to make changes that will benefit our deaf and hard of hearing students.

Contact us and share your information.

You can reach us by phone, email, VP or on our website www.kcdhh.ky.gov.

We hope to hear from you soon!!

