

# COMMUNICATOR

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
632 Versailles Road \* Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 \* kcdhh.ky.gov \* 800-372-2907

37th Year  
Summer 2019

## KCDHH Staffer Focuses on Work-Life Balance



**Virginia L. Moore**  
*Executive Director*

Many people have mixed feelings about their jobs. Work is a place they go to do some tasks and then go home without feeling like they've grown personally or professionally...or have even made a real difference in the world.

Not Blake Noland. Every day, he believes in the work he does. Even more, he believes he can make a difference.

"Doing well by doing good" is how Blake approaches, not only his job, but life in general.

Blake is an Information Coordinator for the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) which involves sharing information, making appropriate referrals and advocating on behalf of individuals who have a hearing loss. He started as a secretary in 2012, then moved to his current position four years ago.

"Since being in this advocacy position," said Blake, "I look to see who is responsible for providing specific services whether I'm at a concert, in a meeting or out with friends. I just take on that role for myself in hopes it will help everyone."

Deaf since birth, Blake said he has always been involved with and focused on the deaf community. However, since working at KCDHH, he's realized the hard of hearing community needs assistance as well.

According to Blake, when people lose their hearing, they typically don't know what's available to them or where to find support and services. They also don't realize there are federal laws that protect their rights to ensure they have effective communication.

"We want these communities and anyone with a hearing loss to know we're here for them and understand they are not alone," said Blake.

KCDHH, which serves nearly 700,000 Kentuckians, acts as an advocate for deaf and hard of hearing persons on legislative issues and serves as a consultant to the Governor, General Assembly, and various state and local

governmental agencies concerning policies and programs that pertain to people with hearing loss. KCDHH also provides information, referral and advocacy services and produces the biennial DeafFestival-Kentucky.

"Not only do we have programs and resources for individuals with a hearing loss," said Blake, "we also have staff who continuously strive to meet their needs. We have every population in mind, from cradle to grave, when it comes to taking care of OUR communities."

Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Blake's parents moved their family to Louisville so he could attend the Deaf-Oral School. He then attended Dupont Manual High School, where there was a deaf program with interpreters. Blake graduated with a degree in Communication Studies from Gallaudet University in 2011.

"I'm very grateful for the experiences I've had," said Blake. "I had my parents and grandparents who made sure I received an appropriate education. I had my friends to help me socially, and I had Gallaudet, my first experience in a totally deaf environment."

For Blake, these experiences have been his guide...ones that he says will help him leave his mark.

"It may seem cliché to say," said Blake. "But, based on my experiences in both the hearing and the deaf worlds, I've been able to see people in a different light. To me, each and every individual is unique and I treat them accordingly."

Blake says he returned to Kentucky after graduating from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC and would like to see others return too.

"Other states have strong deaf communities, and I would like to see the same in Kentucky.

Blake recently purchased his first home in Louisville and enjoys life outside of work.

"I spend time with my dog, Zora," said Blake. "I'm not a workaholic trying to change the world right here and now.

I'm enjoying my life and doing things at my own pace."



## Commission Members

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Parent Representative

## Counties Added to Text-to-911



With Text-to-911, individuals in several Kentucky counties now have the capability to text authorities during an emergency. As of this writing, Anderson, Fayette, Jessamine, Garrard and Lincoln counties are all participating.

Text-to-911 is only for use in emergencies, when making a voice call to 911 is not possible.

Situations where this would be appropriate include:

- A caller reporting an emergency is hard of hearing, deaf or speech-impaired.
- Voice connectivity is unavailable, but texts can be sent.
- Situations when silence is of the utmost importance for your safety— instances of intrusion, abuse or other dangerous situations in which making a phone call would escalate the emergency.

If you are in a location that cannot send/receive text messages, you will receive a message advising you to make a voice call to 911 for help.

If you need to send a text, it is important to include an accurate location or address along with the nature of the call. The text should be simple, brief and concise. No photos or videos can be sent via text to 911 at this time.

This project is made possible, in part, by the 2018 Kentucky 911 Services Board Grant.

## SEPTEMBER - NATIONAL DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

### Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

632 Versailles Road \* Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 \* [www.kcdhh.ky.gov](http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov)  
502-573-2604 (V/TTY) \* 800-372-2907 \* 502-416-0607 (VP)

#### Staff

Virginia Moore, *Executive Director*

Tashina Crowe, *Interpreter I*

Anita Dowd, *Executive Staff Advisor*

Jessica Endler Smith, *Administrative Specialist II*

Vacant, *Internal Policy Analyst III*

Emily Kimbell, *Information Coordinator for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing*

Elise Kitchen, *Executive Secretary II*

Rachel Morgan, *Executive Staff Interpreter*

Blake Noland, *Information Coordinator for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing*

Jayna Oakley, *Information Office Supervisor*

Jim Rivard, *Network Analyst II*

Rachel Rodgers, *Interpreter Referral Specialist*

Toni Jo Stinson, *Document Processing Specialist I*

Cole Zulauf, *Program Coordinator*



# 2019 Calendar of Events:

## Friday, August 2

### **Perry Named to KSD Hall of Fame**



**Nancy Perry**

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) Board Member Nancy Perry was one of 11 inductees into the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Alumni Association's 2019 Hall of Fame. The Ceremony will take place on Friday, August 2, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Danville.

The 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees include Clyde Mohan, Lisa Morse, Paul Smiley, Barbara Bailey, Kevin Hamilton, Richelle Stone, Ann Arnold, Linda Cress, Joe Helton, Nancy Perry and Edith "Dot" Stallard.

## Saturday, August 3

### **KSD Annual Picnic Weekend**

The Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association (KSDAA) held its 47th Annual Picnic Weekend on Saturday, August 3, at the American Legion Boyle Post 46, in Danville. For more information, contact Jason Smith, KSDAA President, bleedofblue@gmail.com/859-439-0359 (VP).

## Friday, August 23

### **Nigel Howard to Lead Interpreter Workshops**



**Nigel Howard**

Nigel Howard, who has worked as a Deaf interpreter for over 20 years, will be the featured speaker at two interpreter workshops on Friday, August 23. The workshops are available for 3.0 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf professional development hours each.

The two workshops include:

- Medical Interpreting for Older Adults, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Ethical Interpreting with Older Adults and those with Dysfluent Language, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per session and will be held in the Business Room Building #2 at 1351 Newtown Pike, in Lexington.

The workshops are co-sponsored by the KCDHH, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Bluegrass.org and the Sign Language Network of Kentucky.



## Saturday, August 24

### **Seniors Open Symposium**

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) in partnership with the Knowledge Center on Deafness, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Lexington's Aging and Disability Services is hosting a one-day workshop, "Seniors Open Symposium," on Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lexington Senior Center.

The symposium is **free**, open to deaf and/or hard or hearing individuals and their caregivers. Sign language interpreters and captioners will be provided. Lunch will also be provided. Registration is required. Call by voice at 502-573-2604 or by video phone at 502-416-0607.



**HANDS & VOICES  
KENTUCKY**

## Saturday, August 31

### **Kentucky Hands & Voices Deaf Awareness Day at Louisville Zoo**

Kentucky Hands & Voices urges everyone to save the date for the annual "Deaf Awareness Day" at the Louisville Zoo which will take place on Saturday, August 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The zoo is located at 1100 Trevilian Way. Follow the Kentucky Hands & Voices Facebook page for ticket information and interpreter schedules. Information will be posted closer to the event.



**Have an event you'd like to promote?**

**Just let us know!**

**kcdhh@kcdhh.ky.gov**



## KCDHH

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PERMIT NO. 481

An agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Printed with state funds

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