



January's (2022) KCDHH Spotlight Q&A is with Anita Dowd, who is Executive Staff Advisor at KCDHH. Dowd's hometown is Hodgenville where she attended LaRue County High School. She attended Gallaudet University and earned her bachelors of psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. Dowd currently lives in Lawrenceburg and is the mother of two daughters, Emily and Hannah, and "Neena" to Wyatt and Abby Grace.

**What department do you work for and what is your role?**

My title is Executive Staff Advisor and I work closely with the Executive Director, I also supervise the Information, Referral and Advocacy department.

**How long have you been with KCDHH?**

I have been with KCDHH a little over 23 years. During that time, I have held three positions. I started as the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, then advanced to Information Office Supervisor, and finally to the Executive Staff Advisor position.

**What have been your biggest accomplishments in your department?**

Every time we are able to successfully advocate for effective communication!

**What is the most unique part about working at KCDHH?**

Definitely working in an environment with zero communication barriers!!

**Before working at KCDHH, what was the most unusual or interesting job you've ever had?**

Prior to coming to KCDHH, I was the Disability Services Coordinator at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. This position allowed me to learn about the needs of ALL students with disabilities, and work closely with faculty and staff to ensure those needs were being met.

**What has been your favorite project at KCDHH?**

Hands down...DeaFestival!! It is truly a labor of love. It can become overwhelming and stressful in the months leading up to the event but it is truly worthwhile when you see the faces of DHH children who are seeing successful DHH role models, often for the first time!

**What is on your wish list for the next 10 years with KCDHH?**

I would love to see KCDHH have branch offices around the state in order to reach out to and assist more constituents!

**What is a hobby or talent you might want to share?**

Creating things!! Using old things to make new things!