



February's (2022) KCDHH Spotlight Q&A is with Emily Kimbell, who is Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at KCDHH. Kimbell's hometown is Beelerton, Hickman County, where she attended Hickman County High School and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). Upon graduation from KSD, she attended Gallaudet University and earned her Bachelors of Science degree in Family and Child Studies. Kimbell currently lives in Frankfort.

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

I work in the Information, Referral, and Advocacy Department at KCDHH. I handle requests that come through our office from individuals seeking resources related to hearing loss. I also connect individuals with appropriate agencies or organizations as well as advocate for communication access for them in various situations. I work with agencies, organizations, and businesses to help them improve their services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

How long have you been with KCDHH?

June of 2022, I will be celebrating 10 years at KCDHH.

What have been your biggest accomplishments in your department?

Completing my Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator Training Certification Program.

What is the most unique part about working at KCDHH?

As an individual with a hearing loss, I love that I can speak with other Kentuckians with hearing loss about some of the struggles they are experiencing and help them understand that they are not alone.

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

During my time at Gallaudet, I volunteered as one of the managers for the men's basketball team. The last two years, I was responsible for the scorebook and I LOVED interacting with the referees and other support staff.

What has been your favorite project at KCDHH?

I have done several projects, but I think the best one was Interpreter Coordinator for our bi-annual DeaFestival.

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

On my wish list, I would like to see KCDHH increase visibility by participating and volunteering in community projects across the state.

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

I have taken up a new hobby...bowling. This will be my fifth season playing with my church league. I almost opted not to play this season, but I was encouraged because I have been improving every week. It's a great time of fellowship with friends!