

Highlights

The 158th quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) was held on Friday, July 20, 2018, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort, Kentucky. Hearing accessibility was provided during the meeting by CART and ASL interpreters.

Ms. Jeannie Taylor, Executive Board Chair, presided over the meeting and welcomed commissioners and guests to the meeting. After roll call, Ms. Taylor requested that the commissioners review the minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting held April 27, 2018, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Following the acceptance of the Quarterly Meeting minutes, the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting held on June 15, 2018, were reviewed and accepted as well.

Prior to Ms. Virginia Moore, Executive Director, report on KCDHH's quarterly activities from April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018.

Regulations

On April 11, 2018 KCDHH's regulations governing the Access Center and the Telecommunications Access Program were filed with the Legislative Research commission. A Public Hearing was held May 21 at KCDHH. Afterwards the amended regulations were referred to the Interim Joint Committee on Education on July 5. This Committee has until August 6 to meet and place the regulations on their agenda for approval, at which time the regulations will go into effect upon the adjournment of that meeting.

Budget

Fiscal year 2017-2018 was successfully closed on June 22. Fiscal year 2018-2019 is now being opened with a minimal cut of 6.25 percent, depending upon the outcome of the revenue and pension reform bill which is currently in litigation.

Legislation

The Budget Bill (HB 200) was signed by the Governor, as was the Pension Bill (SB 151) and the Tax Reform Bill (HB 366) during late April. Currently these Bills are being challenged by the Attorney General's Office.

Personnel

Presently there are two vacant positions at KCDHH: Document Specialist I, and Internal Policy Analyst III. Mrs. Elise Kitchen has now joined the staff of KCDHH as Executive Secretary II.

DeaFestival

KCDHH will be hosting DeaFestival Saturday, September 1, at The Galt House in Louisville. The theme for DeaFestival is "There's a HERO in ALL of US!" Additional information can be found at the following link: <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/deafestival/>

National Law Enforcement training program

KCDHH and North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing began development of a nation-wide training for law enforcement officers in interacting with the deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind individuals. The two states will work with various law enforcement experts in developing a curriculum and video vignettes that can be adapted and used nationally.

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

The next Telecommunications Access Program Advisory Board meeting will be held at the KCDHH office on October 25, 2018 from 2:00 – 4:00.

KCDHH New Database

Currently KCDHH's database is in an upgrade process. This upgrade is expected to create new tools and features to enhance performance and efficiency for staff in meeting the requests and needs of consumers, media and other organizations and businesses.

Additional Quarterly Activities Supporting KCDHH Goals

- Bates Elementary Health Fair – *Outreach Event*
- Richwood Nursing Home – *TAP Outreach Event*
- Senior Celebration (Elizabethtown) – *Outreach Event*
- Voters Rights Video – *Outreach Project*

- Hill's Pet Nutrition Presentation (Bowling Green) – *Presentation*
- Louisville Cultural Accessibility Association – *Presentation*
- Kentucky Educators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference – *Outreach Event*
- iKnow Expo – *Outreach Event*
- Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation – *Quarterly Meeting*
- Engage for Change – *Meeting*
- Nursing Home Ombudsman – *Presentation*
- ElderServe (Louisville) – *Presentation*
- Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Advisory Council Meeting*
- Hands & Voices 5K – *Event*
- Statewide Advisory Council for Exceptional Children – *Quarterly Meeting*
- Kentucky Registry of Interpreters – *Conference*
- Kentucky Association of Government Communicators – *Conference*
- Family Learning Vacation (Kentucky School for the Deaf) - *Presentation*
- System of Care Conference – *Conference*
- Kentucky Regulations Training – *Training*
- DeaFestival-Kentucky – *Planning Meetings*

KCDHH Study Groups

➤ **12 Education Study Group**

Chair: Amy Hatzel

The purpose of the group is to improve educational outcomes for students with hearing loss being served in both residential and mainstream settings by providing complete access to language (spoken or signed) and to support systems that families and educators need to establish maximum individual access to instruction. Ms. Hatzel reported the following progress points/developments:

- *Kentucky Common Ground has met twice since the initial meeting in January.*
- *Shared Understandings have been drafted by the stakeholders group.*
- *Kentucky School for the Deaf, Heuser Hearing Institute, Lexington Hearing and Speech Center, and KCDHH are the primary stakeholders involved in meetings at this time.*
- *This group is investigating other states' processes for establishment of Deaf Child Bill of Rights and LEAD-K.*
- *This group is now actively compiling a list of potential stakeholders for group expansion.*

- *This group has agreed that basic legislation mandating the provision of early language acquisition services will be vital.*

➤ **Needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Citizens**

Chair: Michelle Niehaus

According to Mrs. Niehaus's report, the overall purpose of the group is to bring together stakeholders from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities as well as state and private agencies serving the population of aging adults in order to identify gaps in services, map existing resources, and develop a plan for addressing these issues strategically to so that our valued elders do not spend their last years in isolation or undue hardship.

Since the previous KCDHH Quarterly Meeting the following actions have been taken:

- *On June 6, a presentation was given at the quarterly ombudsman meeting held in Lexington.*
- *On June 11, a presentation was provided to the deaf and hard of hearing community and caregivers at the Louisville South Central Public Library.*
- *On July 9, the working group met to outline goals for the grant application.*
- *A Data Request from Kentucky Medicaid resulted in the identification of 590 individuals in long term care facilities who are identified as Deaf or Hard of Hearing. A chart is available with the information broken down by Area Development District. This will be used in grant applications and in work with the Kentucky Long-term Care Ombudsmen.*
- *The layout for the Resource Guide was developed and will be viewable in printed book form or an online pdf. The goal is to have a final document ready by DeaFestival.*

Other Announcements and Additional Actions of the Commission Board

- The Commission Board adopted a revised version of “The Guiding Principles for Productive Meetings of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Ms. Gerry Gordon-Brown, representing Kentucky Association of the Deaf, was reappointed to the Commission Board by the Governor’s Office on June 25, 2018 along with Ms. Joy Kiser, representing A.G. Bell.
- The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at KCDHH Conference Room on September 14, 2018 from 1:00 - 3:00.
- The 159th Quarterly Commission Meeting will be held on October 26, 2018 from 1:00 - 4:00 location to be determined. Hearing accessibility will be provided by CART and ASL Interpreters.

In Closing

The 158th Quarterly Board Meeting was adjourned.

Jeannie Taylor, Commissioner
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July 24, 2018