



Jeannie Taylor  
KCDHH Commissioner  
Executive Board Chair  
HLAA Representative



## Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 160<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting:

### Highlights

The 160th quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) was held on Friday, January 25, 2019, from 1:00 to 4:00 at Kentucky Correctional Industries 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 October 26, 2018, in Frankfort, Kentucky. Following the acceptance of the Quarterly Meeting minutes, the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting held on December 7, 2018, were reviewed and accepted as well.

Ms. Virginia Moore, Executive Director, reported on KCDHH's quarterly activities from October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

### Legislation

KCDHH staff is following pre-filed bills for the 2019 Legislative session for impact on the deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) community. Currently there is legislation addressing education, pension reform, tax reform and additions to the driver's testing manual that are being monitored.

### Personnel

As of December 1, 2018, Ms. Toni Jo Stinson filled the Document Processing Specialist I vacancy at KCDHH. The Policy Analyst III position has not been confirmed by the Personnel office. In the meantime, Ms. Row Holloway has been retained on a temporary, part-time basis to help maintain efficiency at this time.

## **UK Grant**

The University of Kentucky recently received a five-year, \$3.4 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to adapt and deliver an evidence-based parenting program for families of young children with hearing loss.

The website below provides additional information about the grant:

<https://uknow.uky.edu/research/34-million-grant-empowers-uk-u-l-and-state-commission-support-kentucky-children-hearing>

## **Kentucky Emergency Management Meeting**

KCDHH met with the Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) Public Information, Awareness and Communication Coordinator in November. The discussion primarily focused on developing a plan for the activation, use and management of a volunteer interpreter list to be used during natural disasters and other large scale emergencies as well as coordinating interpreting services for any televised emergency announcements at the Emergency Operations Center.

Options for captioning both existing and future Civil Rights Civil Liberties (CRCL) videos as well as Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were discussed.

## **E911/Smart 911/Text-to-911 Research and Clarification**

KCDHH is working towards pinpointing which counties in Kentucky have each of these services. KCDHH will determine the best way to present this information to consumers in a way that offers clarification and easy access.

## **KCDHH Support Project CLIMB**

Project CLIMB (Cultivating Legal Interpreters from Minority Backgrounds) is a five-year program (University of Northern Colorado) that provides training to increase the number of interpreters of color and heritage signing backgrounds by creating alternative career paths for specialization in legal interpreting. KCDHH plans to post a vlog with details about the project so that interpreters in Kentucky can possibly take advantage of the opportunities CLIMB provides.

## **Education and Workforce Development Cabinet**

KCDHH had the opportunity to meet with the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet in December. KCDHH reported key statistical data regarding

Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community. According to the National Deaf Center, the state of Kentucky is currently ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation in terms of the high school completion rate and employment rate for deaf individuals.

After the 2019 legislative session concludes, the Executive Director of KCDHH and the Secretary will meet to revisit the issues. Additional information can be found here:

[https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/State%20Rankings%20of%20Post%20secondary%20Achievement%20for%20Deaf%20People\\_2012-2016.pdf](https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/State%20Rankings%20of%20Post%20secondary%20Achievement%20for%20Deaf%20People_2012-2016.pdf)

## **KCDHH New Database**

KCDHH's new database is near completion. This upgrade is expected to increase the efficiency of the Access Center's interpreter referral process. Some of the functions of the new database will be automated to help streamline responses to consumers. However, KCDHH will continue to maintain their personal connection to constituents.

## **KCDHH Staff Participates in First Aid/AED Training**

KCDHH now has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and a Bleed Kit for use by office personnel should the need arise. One Beat CPR will provide medical oversight, documentation and support for the AED. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), First Aid and AED training was provided for staff members at KCDHH as part of the medical oversight requirements.

## **Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)**

The next TAP Advisory Board meeting will be held at the KCDHH office on April 18, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **KCDHH 2018-2019 Kentucky Hearing Loss Awareness Campaign**

The staff of KCDHH has developed a hearing loss awareness campaign plan to create awareness about hearing loss and KCDHH. Audiences were identified as well as short-term and long-term objectives. A 2018-2019 Calendar of Events is currently being developed.

## **Additional Quarterly Activities Supporting KCDHH Goals**

- 2018 HLAA Walk for Hearing – *Outreach Event*
- King's Daughters Apartments – *KCDHH/TAP Outreach Event*
- Consumer Installation and Demo – *Service Project in Louisville, Kentucky*

- Kentucky Association of Government Communicator's Fall Conference – *Conference*
- Engage for Change Meeting – *Meeting*
- Education and Workforce Development Communication Meeting – *Meeting*
- Emergency Support Function Meeting – *Meeting*
- Needs of Seniors who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing – *Outreach Event*
- REAL ID Vlog – *Outreach Effort*
- National Law Enforcement Training Program – *Meeting*

## **KCDHH Study Groups**

### ➤ **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:*

*The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) requested this group to pull the proposal of LEAD-K legislation due to the fact that the 2019 Legislative Session is short this year. According to KDE, legislators are dealing with issues such as Charter Schools and the Teacher's Pension plan. KDE indicated they will continue to support meetings on the subject of Language Acquisition. This Study Group will continue to prepare for legislation during the 2020 session.*

### ➤ **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 November 7, the first TeleCare training took place.*

- *On November 15, a resource booth representing the Study Group was set up at the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities/Kentucky Center for Assisted Living meeting.*
- *On November 19, the Study Group met to discuss and update the group on the current progress of various projects.*
- *On December 3, work was continued on writing a grant for the Civil Money Penalty Funds (CMP).*
- *On December 18, a meeting was held to recreate and redraft the “Resources for Senior Citizens and Caregivers Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing” resource guide.*
- *On December 27, outreach letters targeting Deaf churches and organizations in Jefferson County were sent out for the purpose of recruiting participants and volunteers for the ElderServe project.*

## **Other Announcements and Additional Actions of the Commission Board**

- Commission Board Members were reminded of terms expiring. The following four vacancies will need to be filled: Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Kentucky Association of the Deaf; Service Provider; and Hearing Loss Association of America. Applications for Board vacancies must be received by February 28, 2019.
- Elections for the Executive Board will be held during the next Quarterly Board Meeting in April. The elected positions are Commission Chair; Vice-Chair; and Secretary.
- The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at KCDHH Conference Room on March 1, 2019 from 1:00 - 3:00.
- The 161st Quarterly Commission Meeting will be held on April 12, 2019 from 1:00 - 4:00 location to be determined. Hearing accessibility will be provided by CART and ASL Interpreters.

## **In Closing**

The 160th Quarterly Board Meeting was adjourned.

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