



Jeannie Taylor
DBH DHHS Advisory Committee
HLAA Representative
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**Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Advisory Committee
on the Need for Services for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 from 12:30-3:30 pm at the Kentucky Correctional Industries located in Frankfort, Kentucky. Hearing accessibility was provided during the meeting by CART and ASL interpreters.

Nancy Perry, Committee Chairperson, welcomed members and visitors. Roll Call was taken which confirmed a quorum. Committee members approved the minutes for the November 14, 2018 meeting.

Michelle Niehaus, Program Administrator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for Kentucky's Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities, introduced Ms. Melony Cunningham, State Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Kentucky who provided training during the Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Cunningham oversees the current programs state-wide of NAMI Kentucky and is responsible for fundraising, marketing and community collaborations, communications to the Board, and new programs and initiatives.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to raising awareness, providing support and education for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Mental illnesses are biological brain disorders that are more common than cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. One in four persons will be affected by a mental illness in his or her life time. Mental illnesses include bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder and borderline personality disorder. Through NAMI State Organizations and Affiliates, education programs ensure families, individuals and educators get the support and information they need. Many NAMI programs are offered at no cost to participants. To find a class or support group area, call NAMI Kentucky toll free 1-800-257-5081. NAMI Kentucky has more than 20 Kentucky Affiliates. Kentucky

residents can find their local NAMI at this website: <https://www.nami.org/Local-NAMI?state=KY>

Ms. Cunningham informed the Advisory Committee that NAMI Kentucky hopes to develop a partnership which helps support individuals and families in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community who are affected by mental illness. NAMI Kentucky also offers several training programs for volunteers who are interested in bringing peer-led programs to their communities. Some of NAMI's programs include: NAMI Basics; NAMI Family-to-Family; NAMI Homefront (for military service members and veterans); NAMI Peer-to-Peer; NAMI Family & Friends. Additional information can be found at NAMI's national website <https://www.nami.org/> and by contacting Ms. Cunningham at the following: Office Phone: 606-677-4066 or Email: namikyed@gmail.com

Mrs. Niehaus distributed a draft copy of a brochure called, '*Eyes on Hope: Paths to Recovery*'. The purpose of the brochure is to point individuals in the deaf and hard of hearing community to information about services and resources available to help with alcohol and drug addiction recovery. It also provides individuals with information about the availability of accessible communication.

Ms. Niehaus reminded members of the Advisory Committee that KRS 210.031 mandates that a biennial report be submitted to the Commissioner, Secretary, and Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare each odd numbered year. Therefore, a report will be compiled in 2019. The biennial report must:

1. Describe the accommodations and the mental health, intellectual disability, developmental disability, and substance abuse services made accessible to deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. Report the number of deaf or hard of hearing persons served.
3. Identify additional service needs for the deaf and hard of hearing.
4. Identify a plan to address unmet service needs.

The purpose of this report provides a focus for the legislature and members of the Advisory Committee on addressing the service gaps for Kentuckians with hearing loss who enter the behavioral health, developmental or intellectual disability, or substance abuse service system. The 2017 Biennial Report can be read here: <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/documents/dhhs/BiennialReport.pdf>

Mrs. Niehaus gave a Committee appointment update and reported that the Advisory Committee now has a full-board. New members were introduced and were given an opportunity to share information about themselves and the organizations/agencies which they represent.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mrs. Niehaus, provided Departmental Updates, reviewed old business, and made announcements about upcoming events and trainings.

Announcements:

- The next meeting of the Advisory Committee meeting will be May 15, 2019. The meeting will be held in a new location and will be announced prior to the May meeting.
- Kentucky's 6th Annual System of Care Academy will be held June 18-20, 2019 at Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington, Kentucky. Registration will be available in April. The announcement for this event can be found here: <https://www.kyspin.com/kentuckys-6th-annual-system-of-care-academy-soc/>

Additional information about the Kentucky Division of Behavioral Health, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee for Mental Health Services can be located at their website: <http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/dhhs-advisory.aspx>

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