



Jeannie Taylor
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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 17, 2021 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. Communication accessibility was provided during the meeting by CART and ASL interpreters.

Julie Dalbom, Advisory Committee Chairperson, welcomed members. Dodie Karr, Advisory Committee Vice-Chairperson, called roll to confirm a quorum. Committee members approved the minutes for the November 18, 2020 meeting.

Michelle Niehaus, Program Administrator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for Kentucky's Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities, introduced two visitors who are currently students in the interpreter training program at the University of Louisville. She also welcomed Mr. Dave Robertson who was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee as member-at-large.

Following visitor introductions, Ms. Niehaus welcomed Miriam Silman, Project AWARE/Trauma Informed Care Program Administrator, as guest presenter. Ms. Silman's topic for the training was "Resilience: What It Is, Why We Need It, & How to Build It".

Ms. Silman discussed the importance of building resilience in order to cope with stress and hardship. She described it as a reservoir of strength that people are able to call on in times of need to carry them through their difficulties and challenges without falling apart. Ms. Silman also gave practical ideas and suggestions about how to build and maintain levels of resilience in order to cope and recover from problems as well as how to help others build resilience. She stressed that resilience does not eliminate stress or erase life's difficulties, but does contribute to increasing mental strength and stability in our lives. In Ms. Niehaus' comments, she also confirmed the importance of resilience



during Covid-19.

Following the training, Ms. Niehaus reminded Advisory Committee members of their responsibility to contribute to the preparation of the biennial report which is due during 2021. The biennial report describes the accommodations and the mental health, intellectual disability, developmental disability, and substance abuse services made accessible to deaf and hard of hearing persons. The report must also include the number of Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons served; identify additional service needs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and identify a plan to address unmet service needs. Ms. Niehaus suggested that Advisory Committee members use the framework of Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services four pillars: Equity; Resilient Individuals and Communities; Structural Economic Support; and Health & Well-Being, as a model to follow when writing the biennial report.

It was suggested that Ms. Niehaus prepare an outline for Advisory Committee members to follow as they gather information for the report. A sub-committee was also formed to begin work on the report.

Announcements:

- Presently one position remains open on the Advisory Committee: Parent/Family Representative.
- Two terms have expired: Kentucky Association of the Deaf and A.G. Bell Association.
- Ms. Jeannie Taylor, HLAA representative, has been reappointed to the Advisory Committee. Her term will expire January 2024.
- The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be May 19, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. (Eastern) via Zoom.

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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