

**Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
123<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Commission Meeting  
October 24, 2009 – Danville, KY  
Zirnheld Property**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Melody Bock-Freeman, Mr. Jim Thompson, Mr. David Bayersdorfer, Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Cristal Collins, Mr. John Horsley, Mr. Bob Stuckey, Ms. Betty Timon and Ms. Sharon White

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Patricia Freeman, Ms. Michelle Niehaus and Ms. Edie Ryan

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ms. Virginia L. Moore, Ms. Rowena Holloway and Mr. Derek Drury

**COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS:** Ms. Tammy Cantrell, Ms. Rita (Zirnheld) Thomas and Ms. Tracy Lundergan

**VISITORS:** Mr. Ron Haynes, Ms. Jean Haynes, Ms. Merle Williams, Mr. Ed Schickel, Mr. Kevin Martin, Ms. Janny Scheeline, Mr. Hester, and Ms. Beulah Hester

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 A.M. As recent Board appointees were present, Commissioners took the opportunity to introduce themselves and their respective organization affiliation. Commissioner Bock-Freeman, Secretary, called roll and as there was a quorum present the meeting continued. The Secretary asked for corrections to the minutes from the 122<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Commission meeting held on July 17, 2009, in Frankfort, KY. No corrections were offered.

**Commissioner Stuckey (Commissioner White) MOVED TO ACCEPT the minutes from the 122<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Commission meeting as read. The motion carried.**

**REPORTS**

**Executive Board Report:**

During the September 29 meeting, the Executive Board:

- Reviewed the newly appointed Board members representing the Kentucky Association of the Deaf and the Alexander Graham Bell Association.
- Reviewed the goals of the Public Service Announcement study group.
- Received a report from KCDHH of the success and requests resulting from the 2009 KY State Fair.

- The KCDHH Facebook account is receiving a large response from the community. KCDHH will continue utilizing Facebook to reach out to the community.
- Reviewed the Information Program Coordinator and the Executive Secretary II positions that are vacant. These positions have been announced and interviews will be conducted.
- The Executive Director explained an Open Records request for expenditure records that was received by all state agencies. The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet will handle all correspondence related to that request.
- The Executive Board decided to table the agency tag line indefinitely.
- A scheduling conflict arose at the KY Center for the Arts and the 2010 DeaFestival-Kentucky is being held in Horse Cave, KY.

## **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT CORRECTION.**

### **Agency Report:**

The Executive Director explained DeaFestival for new Board members to grasp the concept and logistics of the event, and then described the accommodations Horse Cave offers. There is a community theater that can be utilized for main performances, grassy areas for children's program, a facility for an artist gallery, and an adequate area for vendors. Many recreational and camping facilities are available that offer a weekend-long event for families.

KCDHH continues its strong push for emergency notification to the deaf and hard of hearing. The Internal Policy Analyst III attended a conference in Georgia that occurs every four years and focuses on technologies and emergency notification systems. KCDHH is working with legislators to mandate the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board to manage the emergency notification system database that will be implemented by KCDHH. There appears to be a national urge for wireless notification during emergencies, so that should assist KCDHH efforts in getting legislation passed and a database implemented. The need for 911 centers to accept text messages is being pushed on the national level to encompass all 911 services.

The Executive Director attended the annual National Association of State Relay Administrators conference in California. Attendees discussed issues regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including CapTel price variations among state providers. FCC is also requiring all video phones to be assigned a ten-digit number to satisfy 911 requirements.

Commissioner and volunteer participation helped make the recent state fair a success. KCDHH set up live landlines and a cabinet to demonstrate available Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) equipment to fairgoers. TAP equipment cabinets and mobile testing devices will be placed in strategic locations throughout the state to enable constituents to test equipment in their area. The Heuser Hearing Institute in Louisville currently has an equipment cabinet in place.

KCDHH experienced an increased volume of requests that were collected at the state fair and due to TAP inserts that were distributed with residential phone bills. KCDHH is working with the Kentucky Telephone Association to ensure all phone companies are distributing the inserts.

KCDHH attended and presented at the first meeting of the recently established Bardstown chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of Kentucky.

The Department of Mental Health has a newly appointed commissioner. The KCDHH Executive Director will meet with the commissioner to discuss mental health issues facing the deaf and hard of hearing population.

Upon request, KCDHH provided the University of Louisville (U of L) with research showing the number of states with interpreter training programs (ITP) at more than one university. U of L retained one Sign Language professor who is seeking how to lobby for legislation that will secure necessary funds to establish an ITP. KCDHH is providing resources and information to universities interested in establishing a program.

KCDHH will again host video blogs (vlogs) on its Web site to inform the community of relevant issues, concerns, services, etc. Representatives from various agencies and organizations will be invited to participate in the vlogs for them to stay aware of concerns and to handle questions posed by the community. This adheres to the mandated goal of bringing the community and state agencies together.

The KCDHH staff raised the highest percentage of donations for the Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign and was recognized by the Cabinet.

## **THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

### **Finance Report:**

KCDHH received a 4 percent budget reduction and the necessary adjustments have been made to maintain current operations. An additional reduction may be proposed in the near future. KCDHH is finalizing its biennial budget proposal that must be submitted, along with a mandatory biennial strategic plan that ensures KCDHH aligns with the Governor's objectives of providing valuable education opportunities, creating and protecting twenty-first century jobs, improving access to quality and affordable healthcare, ensuring safe communities, developing resources in an environmentally sustainable manner, and providing ethical, transparent, and honest state government.

## **THE FINANCE REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

### **Telecommunication Access Program Report:**

KCDHH is working with legislators to iron out language to ensure the TAP wireless petition progresses through the proper avenues successfully. Numbers show an increase in demand of the CapTel and cordless amplified phones by consumers. Approximately 98 percent of TAP clientele are deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Upon adding wireless devices to its distribution program, KCDHH will draw in more deaf individuals and balance program services.

**THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

**American Sign Language Instructor Study Group Report:**

The study group will contact the Education Standards Profession Board as they plan to open regulations to require American Sign Language (ASL) instructors in K-12 settings to hold ASL teacher certification. The group is working toward identifying the reasons many deaf individuals are failing the Praxis exam, which is required for general teaching certification, and identified the trend that students transferring to universities from community colleges are not prepared for the university-level ASL courses, indicating insufficient instruction at the community college level. The group will investigate this issue as well. The next meeting is scheduled for November.

**THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

**Movie Caption Study Group:**

The objective is to require movie theaters with a specified number of screens to provide feasible captioning for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Legislation filed during the previous session to require captioning in movies theaters in Kentucky met opposition and the bill was stopped. KCDHH is currently drafting a response to address each point of opposition provided to legislators from movie theaters. If federal House Resolution 3101 passes, those requirements will filter to states and assist KCDHH efforts in passing state legislation. At the September 29 meeting, a guest speaker provided the history and current trend of captioning in movie theaters which will assist the study group to better address obstacles preventing state legislation.

**THE MOVIE CAPTION STUDY GROUP REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The current AARP representative has resigned. AARP will submit three names, resumes, and applications to the Governor's Office to review for appointment to the KCDHH Commission Board.

Board members reviewed and discussed the Public Service Announcement (PSA) study group goals.

