



## Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin January 2012

### **VISION**

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in concurrence with the Colorado Department of Human Service vision, seeks to become the nation's leader in empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, families, and communities to become safe and independent.

### **MISSION**

To promote the interests of our constituents and to work to ensure the quality of communication access for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing living in the state of Colorado.

### **New Faces at the Offices**

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) is no longer shrinking! It has gained two valuable temporary aides for both the Auxiliary Services Coordinator and Deaf-related Education and Training Specialist positions. Carmena Minor and Rob Loveless held positions respectively, but had to depart to begin new adventures. The new members are:



**Mandy Turner:** Mandy serves as the Auxiliary Services Coordinator in the Legal Auxiliary Services unit. Coordination of auxiliary services (interpreters and CART) for the Colorado State Courts is one of her primary job functions. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Metropolitan State College of Denver. After graduation, she worked as Deputy Probation Officer in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for three years. She also has extensive experience working in the courts, jails, probation, and ongoing treatment sessions as a Deaf Interpreter. She was crowned as the Colorado Association of the Deaf's Miss Deaf Colorado between 1987 and 1989. Mandy currently resides in Aurora with her husband and three children.

Mandy can be reached at [mandy.turner@state.co.us](mailto:mandy.turner@state.co.us), [las.ccdhh@state.co.us](mailto:las.ccdhh@state.co.us), or 720-235-0066 (VP/voice).



**Timothy Chevalier:** Timothy resides in Highlands Ranch with his wife (sixth generation Deaf) and son. Timothy feels one of his greatest gifts from his parents was to have ASL as his first language. He serves as Education and Training Specialist providing consultation and training on communication access for citizens who are deaf or deaf-blind to all levels of Colorado government, private not-for-profit organizations, and businesses. Timothy is currently working on his dissertation for a Doctorate degree in Administration of Adult and Higher Education Programs. Most recently he worked in the

same capacity for Postsecondary Education Programs network for a four-state region including Colorado. He has completed the four tiers of training by the Center on American Sign Language/English Bilingual Research (CAEBER), and worked as a mentor and seminar facilitator for CAEBER. He received his Masters of Science from McDaniel College in Teaching Interpretation. He has C.S.C., C.I., and C.T. certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and has worked as an interpreter practitioner and educator since 1975 (although he insists that the white hairs on his chin are actually platinum blonde). This background coupled with his experience as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and as a Director for a University program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing makes him especially qualified to work with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Timothy can be reached at [timothy.chevalier@state.co.us](mailto:timothy.chevalier@state.co.us), 720-235-0062 (VP), or 303-866-4258 (voice).

The office currently has six staff members; a staff member in the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program unit, two members in the Legal Auxiliary Services unit, two members in the Education and Training Program and an administrator. A part-time staff interpreter position will be posted in the near future. Keep your eyes peeled for it!

### **CCDHH Grant Program Announcement**

A total of fourteen (14) applications for a total of \$123,224 were considered. The 6 applications, listed below, were approved for funding for a total of \$49,245.

**Name: Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition**

**Amount: \$8,000**

**Project:** Individual advocacy and training program for low-income deaf and hard of hearing clients

CCDC is built on the premise that when people with disabilities are empowered through education and experience, they can affect systems change, which in turn benefits all people. Funding from CCDHH would enable them to broaden their outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community to provide education on civil rights as protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) so that individuals can better self-advocate in the navigation of daily life. This funding will help support the costs of providing sign language interpreters and other accessible means of communication (CART) as well as developing training tools for clients who are deaf and hard of hearing.

**Name: Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind**

**Amount: \$10,000**

**Project:** On-the-Job Training and Bridges to Life programs

The Employability Center at CSDB works with approximately 60 students each year within the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program for high school seniors and the Bridges to Life (BtL) Program for students, ages 18 to 21. Funding for student pay under a work-study environment will assist the students in experiencing every aspect of life work opportunities. This project will also encourage community businesses to give deaf and hard of hearing

individuals an opportunity to excel in their work sites. This funding will assist CSDB in paying their students' minimum wage while working at off-campus work sites.

**Name: Colorado Families for Hands and Voices**

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project:** Reaching underserved families

Colorado Families for Hands and Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing in the state. Through parent and professional collaboration, they work to help children who are deaf or hard of hearing receive an education where their unique way of communicating is respected, utilized, and developed to full proficiency. The CCDHH funding will be used for their efforts to increase support to families, especially the underserved, harder to locate families whose children are at greater risk for delays and difficulties during their educational years.

**Name: Hearing Loss Association of America – Western Colorado Chapter**

**Amount:** \$1,260

**Project:** Remote CART for HLAA WCO chapter meetings

The Western Colorado Chapter of HLAA, a non-profit organization in Grand Junction, was granted recognition as a chapter by the national headquarters in the spring of 2011. The chapter has held meetings and educational programs since then and all programs are free and open to the public. This very moderate grant will enable them, as a newly formed organization, to provide remote CART service at nine HLAA WCO educational chapter meetings during the fiscal year and meet their objective of providing communication access to deaf and hard of hearing people attending meetings.

**Name: The Independence Center (Colorado Springs)**

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project:** Development of effective programming for the deaf and hard of hearing services among 10 Independent Living Centers and statewide deaf and hard of hearing advocacy

The Independence Center in Colorado Springs, one of 10 independent living centers in the state, has expanded their deaf and hard of hearing services this past year from several active consumers to over 100. They have made inroads with different service agencies and the deaf and hard of hearing communities. It is a priority of TIC to help provide a process to enable all deaf and hard of hearing in Colorado to move freely around the state and know what level of services are available in their local Independent Living Center. The CCDHH funding would help guide other Centers in developing similar levels of services by developing a model for implementing one-on-one, systemic and legal advocacy services for the deaf and hard of hearing and, if possible, planning a statewide deaf and hard of hearing advocacy network.

**Name: Rocky Mountain PBS**

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project:** Closed caption services

Rocky Mountain PBS requested a grant to support the cost of their closed caption services. Closed captioning provides a critical link to the world of news, entertainment and information to the deaf and hard of hearing. The FCC also requires local broadcasters and cable companies to make programs and emergency information accessible to persons who are deaf, or hard of hearing. They must be supplied aurally and in writing to a significant percentage of their population. Through closed captions, they would build on with their mission of increased inclusiveness and have the ability to further reach the deaf and hard of hearing communities. RMPBS is a non-profit organization doing broadcasting through media.

This was a very competitive process for the applicants. Only six applicants out of 14 applicants were selected. Last year, we had only eight applicants for a total amount of \$38,360.

CCDHH wishes the awarded grantees the best as they embark their grant projects!

### **Colorado Daylight Project**

There is another milestone for Arapahoe House, the Colorado Daylight Project, the state of Colorado and the deaf and hard of hearing communities! Arapahoe House, who was adopted as one of eight agencies by the Daylight Project, was highlighted in the Denver Post on December 22, 2011. For an article regarding their new innovative program, go to [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_19597664](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_19597664). Arapahoe House offers direct substance abuse services to deaf and hard of hearing people and families in the Denver area.

*The Colorado Daylight Project*, a collaborative effort lead by the Mental Health Center of Denver and the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, is designed to provide assistance to Colorado community mental health centers and publicly funded substance abuse providers who want to advance access to behavioral health services to Coloradans who are deaf and hard of hearing.

### **PEPNet-2 Grant Update**

By Cathy McLeod, PEPNet-2 Director  
September 28, 2011

### **I am pleased to announce**

The National Center on Deafness at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) was chosen as the official recipient of the Postsecondary Education Center for Individuals Who are Deaf (CFDA 84.326D) grant award. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which formerly funded four regional centers awarded the funds for one national center to CSUN. We are charged with establishing a NATIONAL technical assistance and dissemination and personnel development center that will improve outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or with co-occurring disabilities. The grant will begin October 1, 2011 and run through September 30, 2016.

### **Thank you for your support in this recent endeavor**

We look forward to working with you and to accomplishing the objectives we laid out in our proposal to OSEP. OSEP's request for researched based models and evaluation of the effectiveness will provide the link to systems change needed to increasing enrollment, academic and social readiness, retention and graduation rates of students who are deaf or hard of hearing

or who have co-occurring disabilities. OSEP's request is exciting, timely and a concept we fully support. Our proposal for system change was built around the following six objectives.

1. Provide leadership for coordinated national and local efforts of key stakeholders and build collaborative partnerships to foster systems change.
2. Incorporate research-based emphases for all project activities to increase knowledge and understanding of educational challenges and to formulate effective strategies.
3. Increase capacity of professionals, postsecondary institutions, and communities to improve or expand services and processes for success for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
4. Address and provide strategies for long-standing systemic obstacles to transition and successful postsecondary outcomes and careers.
5. Utilize technology in innovative and effective ways to create relevant, meaningful communications and products to enhance success for stakeholders and programs.
6. Ensure valid, transparent and accountable Center activities that seek to maximize impact on postsecondary outcomes for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

### **CSUN is excited to begin our work with identified partners nationwide**

In the next three months, Center staff will reconfigure the organizational structure, develop a needs assessment, and implement a five year strategic plan to meet the objectives outlined by OSEP. A kick off meeting with the Project Officer and OSEP officials in Washington DC will take place within a month to determine the specifics of a cooperative agreement. We will keep you posted of our developments and implementation of our services via [www.pepnet.org](http://www.pepnet.org) and eBlast notifications. Be on the lookout for information about our National State Systems Change Summit. Thank you for your staunch support through this process and we look forward to continued collaboration.

### **2011-2016 ADA Center Grant Awarded**

By Jana Burke, Rocky Mountain Ada Center Project Director  
September 29, 2011

I am pleased to announce that Meeting the Challenge, Inc. was chosen as the recipient of the Rocky Mountain Region ADA Center [which is based in Colorado Springs] (CFDA 84.133A-6) grant award by the National Institute on Disability & Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). We are once again charged with providing information, training and technical assistance to employers, people with disabilities, and other entities with rights & responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The grant will begin on October 1, 2011 and is scheduled to run through September 30, 2016.

Thank you for your support during the competition period. We look forward to working with you as we accomplish the objectives developed for our proposal to NIDRR. MTC and the staff of the ADA Center are excited to continue our work as we transition to ADA implementation across the region with targeted technical assistance and increased localized capacity.

Stay tuned for developments as we kick off the new grant period. We will keep you posted with updates to our website at [www.adainformation.org](http://www.adainformation.org), notifications via email, and posts to our [Facebook](#) page and [blog](#). As always, you can reach us toll-free at 800/949-4232 (V,TTY). We look forward to another 5 years of progress we continue work to implement the ADA in the Rocky Mountain region!

**Upcoming Consumer Advocacy Trainings**



# Deaf Self-Advocacy Training

Participants will gain a stronger understanding of how to advocate for themselves, understand the interpreter's role, and how to advocate for communication access services.

## Target Audience

The target audience includes individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and use sign language to communicate and are:

- Vocational rehabilitation clients;
- Adult basic education students; or
- Other individuals wanting to learn advocacy strategies for communication access in a variety of settings.

## Training Dates & Cities

This is a 2 day training, 8a.m. – 5 p.m. both days.

**January 21 & 22, 2012 – Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS)**

**March 17 & 18, 2012 – RMDS**

### Registration Required

To register, email: Julie Moers, [julie.moers@cadeaf.org](mailto:julie.moers@cadeaf.org)

All trainings will be held at the Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS), 1921 Youngfield Street, #204, Golden, CO 80401

## To Register

**Advanced registration is required. This training is free and limited to 20 participants who use sign language as a means of communication.** To register by email send 1) your name, 2) mailing address, 3) phone number, and 4) email address; **type "DSAT" in the subject line.** Registration confirmation will be sent to your email.

If you have questions, need an accommodation, or want to register by phone, contact Julie Moers: 720-457-2053 (VP/V).

***These sessions are co-sponsored by the Colorado Association of the Deaf (CAD) and Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH).***

*The DSAT project was a collaborative effort to create a self advocacy training for communication access services. The project team consisted of the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC), Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD), and T.S. Writing Services, who collaborated with Digiterp Communications and D.E. West Studios.*

*Funded by the U.S. Department of Education RSA CFDA #84.160A and B, Training of Interpreters for Individuals Who Are Deaf and Who Are Deaf-Blind.*

**CaptionCall®**  
*Life is calling*

CaptionCall® is a revolutionary new telephone and service for anyone who has trouble hearing on the phone. While hearing loss affects millions of people for many different reasons – age, illness, injury, loud working conditions, and military service among them – it doesn't have to limit the quality of their phone conversations. With CaptionCall, it's easy to communicate confidently with friends, family and colleagues.

Similar to captioned television, CaptionCall uses voice recognition technology and a transcription service to quickly provide written captions of what callers say on a large, easy-to-read screen. It works like a regular telephone – simply dial and answer calls as usual – speak and listen using a phone handset like always. Plus, with CaptionCall, users see captions of what callers say without missing a single word.

The CaptionCall phone, combined with the free, FCC-funded service and friendly customer support, enables people everywhere to get more from their phone conversations—and from life. To learn more, call 877-557-2227 or visit [www.CaptionCall.com](http://www.CaptionCall.com).

**Use Promo Code HS1061 before June 30, 2012 to receive a free CaptionCall phone.**

**Commission Meeting**

The next CCDHH meeting and community forum will be held at 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2012. A meeting site is not yet determined. For the meeting and forum agenda, go to: <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>.

The CCDHH meetings and forums are always open to the public. You are more than welcome to come and be part of the informative as well as interactive sessions.



**From the staff and commissioners of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Colorado Department of Human Services**