

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING June 2, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:22pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Debbie Mohney (Chair), Leslie Ralphe (Vice Chair), Shelley Strickfaden (Secretary), Kirk Neuroth.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Barbara Jenkins, excused absence, and Nicki Runge, unexcused. Jennifer Peterson has offered her unofficial resignation from the CCDHH.

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

Cliff Moers, Administrator, Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager, Tricia Frank, TEDP Coordinator, Rob Loveless, Education and Training Specialist/Deaf Community, Namati Katungu, Education and Training Specialist, Hard of Hearing Community.

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Sandra Rouse, Candace Stuckey and Amy Kalmus, Interpreters
Claudette Mondragon, CART Provider

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

March 3rd, 2011 Minutes were approved with changes.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Mohney

- Chair Mohney welcomed and thanked everyone and specifically thanked Colorado School of the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), the interpreters, CART provider, and the Department of Human Services and CCDHH staff.
- The CCDHH meeting changed locations for this meeting to CSDB in Colorado Springs and it was the same, later time at 4pm. The format will be the same as the March meeting – the first half of the meeting will be the formal CCDHH meeting and the second half will be a community forum and the presentations.
- Chair Mohney requested feedback from the community on the new format as well as the time.
- The Florida Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has recently survived their legislative session only to have the Governor use a line item Veto to remove funding. They are requesting that the Legislators have a special session and ask the Governor to reconsider and for the legislators to override the veto.
- Colorado and the CCDHH have been fortunate in 2011 to survive any budget cuts, but must be careful to stay efficient and accomplish as much as possible with the resources present.

Commission Administrator's Report, Administrator Moers

A. Program Updates

- The state legislature reduced the CCDHH budget by \$33K for FY '12, at the same time the CCDHH has received a .5 FTE within the existing budget.
- The CCDHH has had an increase in hours for Legal Auxiliary Services and will hopefully get increased funding for the next year.
- Need continued funding for the Daylight Project. This project is based on \$520,000 - the funds will be depleted by June 30, 2011.
- CCDHH Staff members will give their updates:
- Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Program (LAS)
 - Cheri Davis reported on the LAS program – a program created 2006 under CCDHH. Was previously run under the judicial Branch and vocational rehabilitation.
 - Cheri Davis gave a fiscal year summary: this year average 632 hours of service per month. The typical payout per month approx. \$36,000 per month, which is why the LAS has requested an increase in budget. Currently we see about a 5% growth. In FY2010 saw a 27% growth due to some very complex cases in rural communities and the word was out about the LAS Program.
 - Currently another 5% increase next year and in the coming years is projected.
 - LAS is currently coordinating 8 of the 22 districts.

- April has RID conference and sponsored several workshop. LAS partnered with Dove, services for abused women and children. The conference had specialists present in polygraphs given for Deaf individuals and mediation.
- CART training – this was an orientation, Cheri spoke to 25 attendees about CART and Pat Graves spoke, as did Claudette Mondragon and Kirk Neuroth.
- Currently we see more CART requests – average now is 5 per month where in the past it was only about 10 per year.
- Cheri Davis posed a question: if you had to go to court, would you know how to request services? Chair Mohney responded that if you receive a jury summons, you can request an interpreter or CART services. An audience member noted that you can call the clerk. The third way to access is through the State judicial website. On the left hand side you have an e-request form and you select the ADA request area.
- Tricia Frank, Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) Coordinator
 - Administrator Moers mentioned that the TEDP position is a .5 FTE, Tricia currently also supports outreach and a .25FTE position supporting visually impaired individuals.
 - Most requests are from people in their 80s and 90s. Tricia offered handouts for feedback and a graph of what is sent out from the TEDP January to May 2011:
 - Visual Aids/Signaler
 - Additional items added to signaler
 - CapTel Phones and the CapTel 800i
 - Amplified phones (various kinds as represented on the graph)
 - TTY
 - Total Equipment distributed by month is also represented in the graph
 - April 2011 saw a reduction in requests, but not sure why – will continue to follow these trends.
 - CCDHH has fliers as well as the PBS “commercial” for TEDP, Tricia showed the commercial – a 30 second spot.
 - Commissioner Neuroth inquired about the ways that the application can be submitted – the only way to submit is to download and print the form and submit along with required backup such as a driver license and phone bill, etc.
 - An audience member asked what the total high number distributed was: Tricia responded that the high was 70 for the month of March.
- Rob Loveless, Education and Training Specialist/Deaf Community
 - Rob spoke about the education and training program. Senate Bill (SB)144 is one year old as of July 1st.

- CCDHH is providing education and training throughout the state. This includes communication access and assessment.
- The CCDHH also provides education and training in other areas: issues that Deaf individuals face and how to address issues from a linguistic and cultural approach.
 - Interpreting and CART services.
 - Regulations such as ADA and other items that apply to DHH individuals.
 - Self-advocacy for DHH individual and for them to understand their rights and what to ask for.
- CCDHH does not provide legal advice, but helps give individuals information so that they may advocate for themselves.
- The CCDHH saw over 200 requests in 11 months – mainly the requests are about lack of access to communication.
- The Commission also provides training through video logs. Namati has been travelling the state training police, law enforcement and dispatchers and raising awareness in communicating the DHH individuals.
- Idea: The Colorado Cross Disability Coalition provides some resources – training, etc. to help them with settlements – perhaps they can also reference CCDHH as we are able to provide this training.
- Rob welcomed feedback and ideas for getting out there and making the CCDHH better known.
- Namati Katungu, Education and Training Specialist, Hard of Hearing Community
 - Geese fly in a v shape to save energy, encourage cooperation and to increase speed. Likewise, the CCDHH needs support to be most effective.
 - CCDHH developed a communication access assessment – currently divided into 3 categories: analyze management, analyze staff and analyze DDH individuals.
 - CCDHH has launched a pilot program at Summit Glen retirement community, new facility opened in the fall and is located Colorado Springs at Austin Bluffs and Old Farm roads and is currently full. They have accepted cooperation with the CCDHH and have interviewed the team, the staff and the individuals that live there (approx. 60% there are DHH). We are hoping to develop an action plan based on this
 - The question to solve is: How to make a senior citizen community accessible to DHH Individuals – the CCDHH will commit to a year to work with them to make the community accessible.
 - When this pilot project is finished, will review and see how it worked – we will then utilize software to analyze the data from the project.
 - Goal = 10 different types of projects to the software to analyze
 - This is currently focused on HH, but we will also take a group to focus on residents who are Deaf.

- This area was focused on because there was an ad for ASL class – they have a high # of HH individuals, are supportive of the team and are aware and open to the fact that they need change to improve communication access.
- A. Misc.
 - Administrator Moers showed the CCDHH website and highlighted some of the new changes including the new Resource Directory such as organizations, names addresses, etc. under services and information referral such as a listing of CART providers. You can print from the site or the Directory as a whole.
 - To add your organization, Click “Add Resource” directly on the web site on the referral page and then you may complete a form. Resources are continually being added. Updates/corrections should be entered as a new resource and the new information will replace the old.
 - The goal was a single place to access all of this critical information in one place.
 - The formal brochures for each program are almost complete – Commissioners are encouraged to take them home and review and offer feedback.

Committee Chair Reports

Interpreting Committee, Kirk Neuroth

- Commissioner Neuroth noted that there may not currently need this committee and that perhaps it should become an Ad Hoc Committee. This discussion will be moved to the September meeting.

Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council, Cheri Davis reporting

- LASAC – Lewana Clark and John Hayden stepped down from their positions representing the Interpreting and Hard of Hearing communities respectively. CCDHH also has an open position for someone with a disability law background. The new term begins July 1, 2011.

Standing Rules Committee/Bylaws Committee, Commissioner Ralphe

- The Bylaws Committee has no new business at this time.

Nominations Committee, Vacancy

- Currently vacant, this position reviews applications and makes a recommendation to the director of Human Services and that will be sent on to the Governor. This position will also review any nominations for awards.
- This position would also review any applications for an Administrator position should it become necessary.

- Commissioner Strickfaden volunteered and was appointed the Nominations Committee chair.

Media Access Committee, Commissioner Jenkins

- There was no new business for the Media Access Committee.

Grant Program Sub-Committee, Administrator Moers

- Administrator Moers announced that the Grant applications are available and were sent out 6/1/2011.
- Organizations can get up to 10K per year and the application deadline is July 31st 2011.
- Applications will be approved at the September meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished business requires approval of the Colorado Consumers Protection Law FAQ, which refers to Title Protection for interpreters. After no discussion, Commissioner Neuroth made a motion to approve the FAQs, Commissioner Ralphe seconded and the FAQs were approved by unanimous vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

Community Forum

CSDB, Overview of CSDB and its future:

- A short 5 minute DVD was shown about CSDB.
- CSDB just finished a successful year and enrollment was the same at 210 live-in students and serving over 500 statewide.
- CSDB collaborates with public schools to serve Deaf and Blind students.
- CSDB has focus on these areas, 1. Strategic planning, 2. Outreach, 3. Early Education, 4. Employment (new Program).
- Renovations are continuing at CSDB – the Gottlieb building has been gutted except for the stage and will have the technology of the 21st century.
- The budget is strong for the next year and has not been reduced to the same level as other schools statewide.
- September 17th is the ribbon cutting for the new building.

Cindy Powell, Rocky Mountain Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Center:

- ADA – calls come in from all over the US – subject, object, verb order is native ASL user and a qualified interpreter must be provided. The #1 question from callers is doctors and dentists not wanting to provide interpreters.
- ADA is about equality – it is a civil rights law. The ADA was passed July 26, 1990 – 5 titles to ADA 1. Employment, 2. State and Local Government entities, 3. Private Businesses, 4. Telecommunications and 5. Miscellaneous.

- What is important for ADA is not the diagnosis, but the effect from it. A disability is something that substantially limits a major life activity.
- cpowell@mtc-inc.com is contact information should attendees want a copy of the Power Point to use or should they have additional questions.
- Effective communication = all people fully understand and are completely understood.
- Criteria for needing an Interpreter: context, complexity, importance, length and the number of people involved.
- Interpreter is imperative in medical, legal and law enforcement situations.
- An ADA change occurred – March 15, 2011 – now the patient and their companion both have rights for Interpreters in these settings.
- ADA.gov has all of the new changes to the ADA listed.
- The person with the disability is the best person to understand and request what they need unless it is a fundamental alteration or an undue burden.
- The ADA does not require certified sign language interpreters, it does require qualified interpreters. However, state laws may differ and if the state and federal law are in opposition, the one with the most/easiest access should be provided.
- One major change to the ADA is that technology can be a solution as long as the Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual fully understand and are completely understood. VRI or Video Remote Interpreting is an option in rural communities, for example.
- ADA is impartial and not an enforcement agency – the Department of Justice should be the enforcement agency.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Angela Tenorio asked if the CCDHH was planning to provide or set up satellite offices around Colorado and if so, how can independent centers work to collaborate with these centers? Director Moers noted that while there is no formal plan to open additional centers, that is a goal and that Colorado Springs would be the first area to open. The question was also asked what services would be provided and it was explained that while any service that the CCDHH offers could be available, ADA training would be primary.
- The Independent Living center at which Ms. Tenorio works as a deaf specialist would like to collaborate with the CCDHH to build a strong suite of services in the Colorado Springs Area.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Strickfaden, Secretary