

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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Karen L. Beye
Executive Director

COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING June 3, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:04pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Deacon Joe Benedetto (Chair), Debbie Mohney (Vice Chair), Shelley Strickfaden (Secretary), Leslie Ralphe, Barbara Jenkins.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nancy Jean Eubanks, Jennifer Peterson: both were excused absences.

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

Cliff Moers, Director, Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager, Tricia Frank, Staff Interpreter.

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Kirk Neuroth and Cheri Davis Interpreters.
Claudette Mondragon, CART Reporter.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

December 3rd and March minutes were approved with minor corrections.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Benedetto

- Chair Benedetto extended his thanks to the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services.
- Thanks were also offered to the Colorado Department of Human services, CCDHH staff and each member and chair of the CCDHH.
- Chair Benedetto asked that we include his farewell report in the regular meeting minutes:

Commissioners:

Farewell.

As you know, my second term will end June 30th and I have decided that it is time for the changing of the guard.

Here, in this building, working together with the Staff of the Department of Human Services, with the Staff of this Commission, and with you – my fellow Commissioners - we have spent a decade establishing this Commission for one sole purpose.

And what is this purpose?

Our purpose was, remains, and shall ever be, to improve the quality of life for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens.

I thank each and every one of you for your dedicated service over the years.

I now leave, my duty met.

A Commission Staff is in place.

A million dollar budget has been achieved.

Programs have been established.

Services have been provided.

I leave with a glad heart.

We have gained a Commission.

The dream has been attained.

The vision has been fulfilled.

And now there has arisen the question of whether the Commission shall survive.

With the advent of Proposition 101 on November 2, the threat of danger from a perfect political storm has arisen.

There has arisen diametric and fierce opposition to government on the federal level.

There is widespread anger at how the public's business is conducted.

There is widespread anger at government officials on policy – and personal - levels.

There is a national angst that has spilled over to opposition on the state level.

This angst is now impacting State of Colorado, her needy and dependent citizens who rely upon state programs and services, and to our very own Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

A proposition to amend the statutes of Colorado requires 76,000 signatures.

Proposition 101 has collected twice as many signatures, 142,000.

To put it another way, 142,000 citizens have declared, by signing this document:

- that they are opposed to existing state programs
- that they are opposed to existing levels of state services

I fear that if this opposition is translated into votes in November, that it will cause needless distress and suffering for our neediest citizens.

It is a grave duty that you now face.

It is your duty to address this threat.

It is your duty to insure that the dream survives.

It is your duty to bring hope to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens.

It is your duty to secure these vital services that our Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens depend upon.

Our citizens deserve no less.

It has been an honor to serve together with each of you on this Commission.

I ask Almighty God to bless and to guide this Commission and to grant her new leaders enlightenment and wisdom in the days ahead.

This Commission – and our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Brothers and Sisters - shall ever remain in my thoughts and daily prayers in this life and in the life to come.

Commission Director's Report, Director Moers

Director Moers offered profound thanks to Chair Benedetto.

A. Program Updates

- The CCDHH office will be moving to the garden level conference room with space for new staff, a conference room and a small TV studio. The Facilities Management team is preparing the room(s) to be ready to move in within 2-3 weeks.
- The September CCDHH meeting will be in the new space and will include an open house for the community.
- The CCDHH will hire 3 new people: a Legal Auxiliary Services Coordinator Position, responsible for scheduling interpreters and CART; the TEDP position in which Rob is currently working part time (and will soon vacate to become full time) as a System Navigator, Technical Assistance Specialist for the Deaf Community; and a System Navigator, Technical Assistance Specialist for the Hard of Hearing Community.
- Three years ago the CCDHH conducted survey to better understand the needs of the community and commissioners – CSI, the Center for Systems Integration, who worked with the Commission on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Project, will now held again with another survey to the community and also reach out to other government staff, other agencies and the CCDHH staff. This will help to see if we are on track towards meeting the three year strategic plan and to make sure that the services provided by the CCDHH are known by the community.
- The CCDHH agreed for the need of a ½ day fall retreat.

B. Miscellaneous

- Grant opportunities through the Colorado Trust – it was agreed that we should write a letter of interest to notify them that the CCDHH is interested in applying for funds. Health care for Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens would be a priority use of this funding, if obtained.
- 2 weeks ago the staff attended a two day retreat at Red Rocks Community College and consumer advocacy training by TDI. TDI, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Incorporated, helps to encourage self sufficiency and advocacy. Some members of the CCDHH will go to the second half of the training in the fall.

- CCDHH Grants – the CCDHH had several applicants and the Committee reviewed them and chose four. These monies (approx \$25,000) need to be spent by the end of the fiscal year. Organizations can apply again starting in July 2010.
- The Resource Directory is almost complete – the development of the database is almost complete and once complete, it will go on the live server which will be in about 1 week.
- The fall (September) meeting will be exciting as we will have 9 News present to discuss a potential partnership. This will be discussed more in Commissioner Jenkins's report.
- A contractor doing work for the CCDHH will report on Aging Services at the fall meeting – this information pertains specifically to aging D/HH citizens and will better detail what services are and are not available and/or accessible to this demographic.

C. Budget

- No new News on the Budget

LAS Review, Cheri Davis

- The LAS is in the process of hiring someone.
- The service numbers have stayed about the same as an average – about 500 hours of service per month and can anticipate that these numbers will stay the same.
- The LAS is collaborating with City and County of Denver with Colorado RID Legal and Dove to put on a series of workshops called “Coffee and Conversation”.
- The “Coffee and Conversation” series has led to Collaboration with the Veditz Center to provide a series of Deaf Interpreter workshops that will prepare interpreters to take the RID written exam to become a Certified Deaf Interpreter.

TEDP, Rob Loveless

- Rob will begin his new role as a Community Navigator and is in the process of hiring a full time TEDP coordinator.
- Until the new TEDP person comes in and Rob has been handling TEDP, and the number of people who have applied and the distribution of equipment has been steady.
- There have been complaints from DHH citizens with regard to accessibility and not having interpreters while in prison, specifically relating to the required training/passage of classes of and by inmates in order to apply for parole. The CCDHH will work with the ADA coordinator at the Department of Corrections to advocate and provide resources to meet inmate's needs.
- The CCDHH will work with law enforcement so that they have a better understanding of the needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens. A meeting was held with the field administrators from several counties to better educate them on what the CCDHH does.

Demonstration of the New Telecommunications Equipment

Kris Shipley demonstrated some new technology (the Captel 800I and the Supersonic 4G) and noted the success and 20 year anniversary of Colorado Relay.

Retiring Commissioner Deacon Joe Benedetto

Commissioner Mohny and Susan Elliott reviewed Chair Benedetto's service to the Commission and its inception since 2000, thanked him for his service and presented him with a plaque and flowers.

Committee Chair Reports

Media Access Committee, Commissioner Jenkins

- The Media Access Committee has been very busy – especially working with 9News to create a website that the DHH community can access to obtain different services available in the state. A monthly television show will also provide information to viewers.
- Need information and feedback from DHH community and Commissioners about what is truly needed: e.g. is information on legal services, TEDP, etc. important to the community? Please provide this information to Commissioner Jenkins prior to next meeting. July 15th is the deadline for feedback.
- The television program(s) will be captioned and in ASL. If video is available, it will also be captioned and everything will be available on the web.
- Need prior to next meeting need feedback from DHH – sent to Barbara
- The committee also needs to know what type of a show the DHH community would want to view on a Saturday morning and what would be most advantageous use of that program/time.
- Rob Loveless reported that the Committee is having preliminary meetings with Ohio broadcasting and PBS to come out and see what CCDHH has with regard to the studio, equipment and resources.
- Director Moers added that the CCDHH as a partnership with PBS that will continue to broadcast statewide while 9News will broadcast in the Denver metro area.

Executive Committee, Commissioner Benedetto

- There is no new business.

Interpreting Committee, Commissioner Eubanks

- Commissioner Eubanks was not present, Mark Valkonen reported for the LASAC and noted that in the April meeting the Committee discussed the policies and “parking Lot items”.
- The Committee will be advertising for the position of Disability Legal Expert to join the group and help develop the policies and services.

Standing Rules Committee/Bylaws Committee, Commissioner Ralphe

- Commissioner Ralphe handed out last revised Commissioner Handbook.

Legislative Committee, Commissioner Strickfaden

- Commissioner Strickfaden reviewed Proposition 101, 60 and 61 that will be on the November ballot.
- “The Trio”: Proposition 101, 60 and 61 will:
 1. Slash 1B in taxes annually
 2. Roll back half of all school property taxes
 3. Limit governments ability to construct new buildings
 4. Reduce vehicle registration fees to the 1919 fee levels.
- Links and additional information will be provided and Commissioner Strickfaden encouraged all to learn as much about these Propositions as possible.
- Chair Mohny added that while the CCDHH cannot take an official voting stand, each member of the CCDHH should educate themselves and take a stand on these measures.

TEDP Program Committee, Commissioner Mohny

- Commissioner Mohny referenced Rob Loveless’ wonderful report and is looking forward to seeing how the new wireless technology is distributed and accepted in the community.
- Commissioner Mohny stated that the commission is looking to get a new TEDP employee so Rob can move into his new role.

Nominations Committee, Commissioner Mohny

- New Commissioners – Commissioner Debbie Mohny as Hard of Hearing representative reported that 3 CCDHH positions expired as of June 30, 2010: the Deaf position, the Hard of Hearing position and the Interpreter position. The new positions have been filled as follows: Nicki Runge as the Deaf representative, Debbie Mohny as Hard of Hearing representative as Hard of Hearing and Kirk Neuroth representing the Interpreting community.
- New officers: Nominations are as follows: Chair: Commissioner Debbie Mohny as Hard of Hearing representative, Vice Chair: Commissioner Ralphe and Secretary, Commissioner Strickfaden.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee, Commissioner Peterson

- Director Moers reported because Commissioner Peterson was not in attendance.
- The Daylight Project has been moving forward with 12 months left to complete the work – the Committee sent evaluations to mental Health/Substance Abuse care providers, administrators, etc to better understand what the existing services and experiences and to determine if a center will be an early adopter to develop the program together and ultimately pick 7 early adopters to work with.

- The CDHH will have a contract with the Division of Behavioral Health Care for \$60,000 which must be spent by the end of the fiscal year (October 30) to provide standards of substance abuse providers, and the creation of an endorsement for clinicians' certification to work with DHH clients.
- The Committee will apply for another grant in the next fiscal year in the division of behavioral health care to build capacity for additional service providers in mental health services for substance abuse.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hayden – the ALDA (Association for Late Deafened Adults) he will present at their National Convention September 1st and 5th.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. No new unfinished business

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of the Commission Officers for July 1, 2010 to June 30. 2011

- Chair – Debbie Mohney
- Vice Chair – Leslie Ralphe
- Secretary – Shelley Strickfaden

Vote was cast and all officers were elected unanimously.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debbie Mohney mentioned that they had a great success with their HLAA walk – the walk brought in \$35,000 and was move to Littleton, CO this year. It was the largest Walk4Hearing in Colorado to date.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Strickfaden, Secretary