



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin February 2011

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.

"Cliff Notes"

LOOKING BACK ...

The work of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) was extended for another five years, ending June 30, 2015, by the Colorado Legislature last year. In celebrating this success, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on our work over the past year, and to acknowledge those to whom we owe gratitude.

Following are some examples of major CCDHH highlights:

- Revised rules for our Legal Auxiliary Services (LAS) to pay community interpreters for court-ordered treatment programs at the community rate rather than at the higher legal rate
- Streamlined auxiliary services scheduling system for state judicial districts, with LAS as a centralized resource for the courts
- Revised rules for the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program to enable provision of wireless phones
- Launched our Education and Training Program for the governmental, community and private agencies, and consumers
- Created the Grant Program and distributed modest grants
- Continued building of effective, if not more efficient, behavioral healthcare capacity efforts which are progressing well through the Daylight Project (a Statewide Strategic Use Funds of the Colorado Department of Human Services grant project and other grant

projects) with the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) as an integral player, and with Arapahoe House coming up with a dedicated deaf and hard of hearing program

- Moved into a larger space (including a TV studio!) for CCDHH offices and staff
- Promoted CCDHH through Rocky Mountain PBS (with more to come!)

Although the highlights merit a celebration, we – CCDHH staff and Commissioners, and Division of Boards and Commissions/Department of Human Services personnel – know very well that we could not have accomplished them without the individuals and agencies who collaborated with us. In reflecting on what we have built in the past and on what we have learned from our experiences, too often we fail to acknowledge their valuable contributions. I wish to mention my deep gratitude to the following few – of many – key players:

- The Colorado Legislature, through this difficult economic time, did pass legislation to extend the CCDHH for another five years as well as to support our new programs, i.e., Education and Training, and Grant.
- The Colorado Department of Human Services as a whole was a guiding light for the CCDHH in our endeavors to design new programs and provided support to the community organizations. Grants from this department for our mental health and substance abuse system advocacy work is one example.
- The ADA Office of the Judicial Branch was proactive in streamlining CCDHH's LAS scheduling system for us.
- Both the Center for Systems Integration and Mental Health Center of Denver were instrumental in maintaining a very progressive and healthy capacity-building within the behavioral healthcare field.
- Folks at Rocky Mountain PBS and 9News were very supportive of our desire to promote our programs and community resources.

LOOKING AHEAD ...

While I believe that good things will keep coming to us if we continue to strive and drive for excellence in everything we do, I submit that the state of Colorado has not fully utilized available resources (education, advocacy, etc.) for the deaf and hard of hearing and is far from done in improving existing programs and services, and in creating new ones to meet outstanding needs. Even though we have many ideas for tackling these issues, the emphasis for now will be on consolidating as well as on planning.

As has happened every year since CCDHH began in 2000, 2011 and on will be filled with more opportunities

-- and greater challenges! You have my assurance that we at CCDHH will continue to work on your behalf to advocate for equal access to communication and to services for all deaf and hard of hearing Coloradans. I welcome you to join us in our adventure.

Retirement Community Development

An “inspiration” is made possible by Lowry Park who is attempting to make their independent and assisted living community a “home” for deaf and hard of hearing residents! It all began with a deaf resident they admitted a few years ago . . . and a short time later, six additional deaf and hard of hearing residents were admitted. It was not an accident. It was fate! Fate is usually not separated from worthy purpose.

The CCDHH staff had the honor of visiting Lowry Park in December and came away impressed with the attitude of both the staff of Lowry Park and Quality Life Management company. They are totally dedicated to their deaf and hard of hearing residents. Lowry Park is an independent and assisted living community who is managed by a company called Quality Life Management. They contracted with the former long-time director of Center on Deafness, Mourene Tesler, who then approached CCDHH for resources and advice to several of the issues.

Quality of Life Management, again, is totally committed to making their retirement communities in their management system, especially Lowry Park, accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. One of their critical tasks is to market the Lowry Park facility to the deaf and hard of hearing communities in the state of Colorado and its Rocky Mountain neighbors. They desire to expand its already critical mass of deaf and hard of hearing residents in an inclusive living center. A marketing plan is being devised and will be implemented.

In order to get acquainted with the deaf and hard of hearing community, they have arranged to host the Commission’s quarterly meeting at their Lowry Park facility on March 3, 2010. During the community forum, they will also present Lowry Park/Quality of Life Management’s ongoing mission to ensure that their facilities are accessible to deaf and hard of hearing residents. Hope to see you there!

See www.lowry-park.com for more information about Lowry Park.

The CCDHH staff visiting Lowry Park on December 3, 2010



Legislative Tidbit

Would you like to dive into the Colorado General Assembly issues and learn? Go to <http://www.leg.state.co.us/> and navigate to the information you seek!

Our State Legislature has been creative so far this year. They have a bill that proposed our Daylight Savings Time as a standard year-round time for us as well as a bill asking that our Daylight Savings Time be abolished. Another legislative bill, Senate Bill 11-41, to increase efficiencies in state executive departments is being considered. There are also a few bills related to critical clean energy initiatives.

Captioned Radio Broadcast - 2011-02-01 09:34:54-05

By DeafTimes

(DeafTimes Comments: Important announcements regarding NPR Radio being broadcasted on Captioned Radio. What they see will happen. We encourage you to click here and see the video news and examples of what Captioned Radio would look like in the very near future.)
<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=CWj6O&m=1e.YjH54nkaw.j&b=sBLv69sojFKU3lt0ZxCyBw>

To see more News:

http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=CWj6O&m=1e.YjH54nkaw.j&b=9R_jbPXH5hum4EORSKtKEA

Making the Most of Public Funding Trainings

By Rebecca Kahn, Center for Systems Integration
Phone: 303-455-1740, Extension 111

In this time of fiscal austerity, it's critical to make the most of every dollar! The Blending & Braiding Your TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Initiative is excited to announce six regional trainings from March – June throughout Colorado. The **Making the Most of Public Funding** trainings are an opportunity to learn about:

- TANF Funding for Supportive Services: Participants will learn about the range of appropriate services and eligible populations under TANF funding.
- Blending and Braiding: Participants will learn concrete fiscal coordination strategies and nitty gritty details of how to successfully blend and braid funds.
- Partnering with Your Funders: Participants will learn a process for using data, advocacy, and community input to advocate for funding community needs.

The trainings are appropriate for directors, managers, and fiscal staff, or anyone else with fiscal knowledge and an interest in understanding fiscal coordination AND family, consumer, and community advocates and non-profits interested in partnering with local funders and having a voice in funding decisions.

For more information, to register, and to access updated dates and locations, please visit:
<http://www.csi-policy.org/blendandbraid>.

To download a flyer to share with your partners, please go to:
<http://www.csi-policy.org/blendandbraid/PDF/BBYT%20Training%20Flyer.pdf> .

The training dates and locations are:

1. Walsenburg: March 23rd, 10:00am – 4:30pm
2. Akron, March 29th, 10:00am – 4:30pm
3. Denver, April 29th, 9:30am – 4:30pm
4. Steamboat Springs, May 11th, 10:00am – 4:30pm
5. Rifle, late May (TBA), 10am – 4:30pm
6. Durango, June 17th, 10am – 4:30pm

Register soon as space is limited!

Upcoming Daylight Project's Consumer & Family Advocacy Training

Do you have a family member — adult or child — who is deaf or hard of hearing and has had experience with mental health services?

Have you had experience trying to get mental health services or treatment for alcohol abuse or drug addiction? What was it like?

Have you or your family members faced barriers when finding out about or getting mental health and addiction recovery services? Do you have stories of challenges and successes to share?

We need your voice on this project, so come share your experience!

We are now recruiting potential advocates to join a fabulous training series about advocacy work with Colorado's mental health and substance abuse treatment systems.

What: Project to improve mental health and substance abuse services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coloradans

Who: Deaf or hard of hearing individuals, or family members, who want to become consumer advocates

When: Training to become advocates will be
Tuesday, March 1st ~ 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 3rd ~ 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 8th ~ 4:00-8:30 p.m.

Contact: Mary Sterritt at mary.sterritt@mhcd.org 303-504-6521 (voice) or 720-949-7484 (videophone)

YOU can make a DIFFERENCE!

Commission Meeting

The next CCDHH meeting and community forum will be held at Lowry Park at 4:00 p.m. on March 3 as stated in the above retirement community development section. The address is 8505 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80230. For the meeting/forum agenda, go to:
<http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>

The CCDHH meetings/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.

The deaf and hard of hearing residents at Lowry Park would be delighted to see you there!

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., Garden Level
Denver, CO 80203
720-457-3679 (VP/voice)
303-866-4824 (voice)
303-866-4831 (Fax)
email.ccdhh@state.co.us
www.coloradodeafcommission.com