



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin July 2009

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.

From the TEDP Corner

Our TEDP has seen a spike in the number of inquiries that were received along with a sizeable increase of distributed telecommunications equipment in the past three months. Application packets were sent to a couple of hundred of individual as well.

Research on wireless products will conducted and completed by October 1, 2009, as mandated by the recent changes in the TEDP statute. Stay tuned for the coming of new products!

Please contact 303-866-2098 (TTY), 303-866-2097 (voice), 720-457-3679 (VP/voice), or tedp.ccdhh@state.co.us if you are interested in applying for free telecommunications equipment or know someone who may be interested.

About Legal Auxiliary Services

The month of June, 2009 has been a flurry of activity as the staff tie up all the loose ends and close out fiscal year 2009 and gear up for fiscal year 2010, all while trying to juggle all of our office duties! There is never a dull moment!

As was mentioned last month, the requests for CART are increasing and it has become critical to increase the pool of qualified CART providers. Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager, visited several courtrooms. She saw CART in action and spoke with court personnel and consumers to get a better feel for what is needed for the future.

The other on-going project is the incorporation of video remote interpreting and remote CART. With the state of the economy and the limited pool of service providers, it is crucial that we take advantage of the benefits that can be provided by the use of new and ever improving technology. The office is working closely with the Judicial Department as they are making

strides to modernize courthouses by making their buildings wireless and installing more video conferencing equipment.

With the passage of SB 144, the office is also working on the exciting task of planning for the addition of a new staff person who will become the Auxiliary Services Coordinator. We are excited to have another staff person join the team!

Mental Health and Substance Abuse System-Level Advocacy Update

New Implementation Team Member

The Implementation Team has invited a new member, Sonia Jackson of Pikes Peak Mental Health, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. This Council is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 membership organization that represents Colorado's statewide network of community behavioral healthcare providers inclusive of 17 community mental health centers (MHCs), 2 specialty clinics, and 5 behavioral health organizations (BHOs). CBHC member organizations contract with the State of Colorado and work together to provide comprehensive behavioral and psychiatric services to defined geographic areas of the state.

CBHC provides a network of skilled therapeutic and community resources to meet the mental health needs of all Colorado residents and their families so that all can have equal and full access to a quality of life. Throughout Colorado, thousands of individuals, once isolated and disabled by mental illness, are now leading productive, satisfying lives.

Sonia Jackson is a Deputy Director of Pikes Peak Mental Health.

Welcome aboard, Sonia!

Work Groups

The Standards of Care Work Group and Consumer Advocacy Work Group are still looking for additional representatives. Please contact Angelia Lawson at angelia.lawson@state.co.us for the Standards of Care Work Group and Rebecca Herr at rebeccaherr@gmail.com and Laura Douglas at ldouglas@cldb.org for Consumer Advocacy Work Group.

Your input is welcome as well. Your input will be valuable for the Work Groups to develop standards and empower consumers and family members. The Implementation Team is striving to improve the quality of mental health and substance abuse treatment for all deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind residents of Colorado.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member for the State Rehabilitation Council **STILL Needed!**

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has approached the CCDHH for assistance in recruiting a member from the deaf and hard of hearing community to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was initially established in accordance with Section 105 of the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act. As amended

in the 1998 Amendments, the purpose of the SRC is to review, analyze, and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) regarding the performance of its responsibilities under the Rehabilitation Act. Members of the SRC are appointed by the Governor and represent diverse ethnic and geographical locations. The majority of SRC members must be individuals with disabilities, including family members, advocates, and others who represent a broad spectrum of interests, including business and industry. The SRC works in partnership with DVR to develop and review the Division's annual goals and priorities, evaluate the effectiveness of DVR's vocational rehabilitation program, and to conduct a yearly review and analysis of consumer satisfaction with DVR services. The present SRC has 15 appointed members and also includes non-appointed "associate" members who participate within the SRC structure.

Below is the SRC member "job description":

Membership Requirements:

- Must represent at least one of the groups identified in the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998
- Must be able to regularly attend council meetings (minimum of 4/year)
- Must serve on at least one Council committee
- Should be able to commit at least 5 hours per month to council activities
- Must be committed to solving vocational and independent living issues faced by people with disabilities

Term:

- Each term shall consist of 2 to 3 years, with no member serving more than 2 consecutive terms

Responsibilities:

The overall purpose of the council is to review, analyze, and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation regarding the performance of the agency. Specifically, the Council will participate in:

- Preparing, administering and analyzing a survey of consumer satisfaction
- Preparing and submitting to the Governor and the public an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs
- Coordinating with other state councils that deal with issues affecting people with disabilities (Developmental Disabilities Council, Statewide Independent Living Council, etc.)
- Advising DVR in the preparation of applications, the state plan, amendments to the plan, needs assessments, and evaluation
- Holding public meetings and forums as necessary to receive input and direction from the public
- Providing input to the selection and appointment of independent hearing officers to handle client appeals.
- Assisting in performing additional duties determined by the council or subcommittees that will enhance accomplishing the mission of DVR.

If you are interested in being considered a member, please call a SRC Membership Committee representative, Marla Pinnecoose, at mpinneco@southern-ute.nsn.us or Rebecca Johnson at rebecca.johnson@state.co.us or 303-866-4714.

Mary V. McGhee, Recipient of the 2009 Susan J. Elliott Award

On June 4, 2009, the Commissioners were honored to present the Susan J. Elliott Award to a worthy recipient, Mary V. McGhee, who is the Director of the Boards and Commissions, for the fiscal year of 2009.

Mary McGhee was selected as the recipient of the 2009 Susan J. Elliott Award for the following reasons:

Mary is the Commission's guiding light. As Director of the Division of Boards and Commissions, Department of Human Services, she has successfully counseled and guided the Commission during her administration.

She is a staunch supporter of the Commission. She has always been behind the Commission all the way. She was instrumental in moving us in the right direction.

Mary McGhee does not micro-mange. She provides support and guidance to this Commission. She provides guidance with trust in the Staff. She understands the roles of the Commissioners and the Staff. She is an ideal leader.

Mary makes sure that the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is part of the Division of Boards and Commissions. The Staff is kept informed through her updates and activities within the Division.

She is a teacher. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of, and extensive experience, regarding state government, from the Department to the General Assembly. She unselfishly shares this knowledge and experience with the Commission.

Mary McGhee has an open door policy. She is available. Commissioners and Staff always feel comfortable seeing her for anything at anytime.

Mary is a fighter. She successfully guided SB 144 to passage. Many opponents of SB 144 did not understand the bill nor the source of funding. She approached opponents of SB 144 and made concrete efforts to educate them about the bill and funding.

Mary McGhee was instrumental in the Commission Director Search. She worked with the Commission Chair every step of the search process, and demonstrated that she knows how to delegate and involve the Commissioners in the search. This collaboration has resulted in the appointment of a well-qualified Director for the Commission.

Most importantly, Mary McGhee's heart is in the right place. She understands that the mission of the Commission is to serve our Colorado deaf and hard of hearing citizens. She understands that there are unique linguistic and communication needs of people who are deaf or have hearing loss as well as the fact that there are cultural aspects of the deaf community. She is able to listen to us regarding issues and concerns. She is able to successfully engage in the consensus building process.

Mary McGhee has the utmost respect and admiration of the Commissioners and the Staff.

Hands up and flashing to Mary V. McGhee, the 2009 recipient of the Susan J. Elliott Award!

New General E-mail Address!

Please change your e-mail address book with the Commission's new general e-mail address: email.ccdhh@state.co.us. The Commission's former general e-mail address: deaf.commission@state.co.us is no longer available.

Commission Meetings

The Commission's quarterly meetings for fiscal year 2010 will be held on:

Thursday, September 3, 2009
Fort Collins, CO
Location To Be Announced

Thursday, December 3, 2010
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

Thursday, March 4, 2010
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

Thursday, June 3, 2010
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

* Every meeting is held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

An update about the community resource directory, SB 144 implementation plans, three-year strategic plan and other relevant issues will be presented and discussed at the meeting.