

**ACE's Equal Access in the Justice System (EAJS) Work Group Action Plan** (updated on: 06/17/2015)

**Description**

Develop technical assistance to ensure deaf and hard of hearing individuals have equal access in Colorado's civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems.

**Intended Outcomes**

- Increase client access to attorneys.
- Increase client access to communication in justice settings, through auxiliary services—interpreters, and CART providers.
- Increase client access to communication in justice settings, through auxiliary aids—technology based; e.g., videophones, CapTel captioned phones, flashing lights for warning systems, audio induction loop systems, etc.
- Develop strategies and implement action plans for educating justice system personnel including law enforcement, dispatch, court systems, detention facilities, and judicial branch services such as probation.

**Intended Goal**

The goal is to improve technical assistance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people through the collaborative efforts of the different entities involved with the EAJS work group. The area of focus is effective communication access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals involved with the justice system.

**Work Group Members & Lead**

*Lead:* Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Outreach Consultant.

*Members:* Candice Alder, CCDHH Outreach Consultant—EAJS work group facilitator; Avi Haimowitz, DOVE, Program Director; Megan Thomas, MHCD Counselor; and Paul Simmons Paul, Rocky Mountain ADA Center ADA Specialist. CAD/Veditz Policy Institute

*Sit-In (Lurkers):* Cliff Moers and/or Timothy Chevalier

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<p><b>Focus Area 1: Online training on the ADA for the justice system - Capacity</b></p> <p>Ensure and coordinate continuous training on ADA regulations relative to effective communication access for the justice system, building on currently existing capacity, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online training will be available to all external stakeholders in the criminal justice system—attorneys, police academies, police departments, sheriff’s offices, detention personnel, and civilian employees.</li> <li>• Online training will cover all geographic areas in the state.</li> <li>• After online trainings are available, CCDHH will advertise the availability of these trainings for Law Enforcement Entities across the state.</li> <li>• The collaborative work of CCDHH, the Rocky Mountain ADA Center, DOVE, and MCHD will continue as needed to provide trainings for law enforcement, and other types of entities within the Justice System; i.e., lawyers, courts, juvenile facilities, probation &amp; parole offices, emergency call centers, and make available trainings for justice system personnel. Depending on external stakeholder requests, trainings may also include information on mental health and the use of legal interpreters.</li> <li>• Advocate for more use of Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI). CCDHH’s Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Committee (LASAC) and the Colorado Association of the Deaf (CAD) are planning to work on increasing the number of CDIs in Colorado.</li> <li>• Training for other types of entities needs to include municipal courts.</li> <li>• Create an information/training resource; i.e., brochure and/or video on the use of qualified interpreters.</li> <li>• Put link to the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) flyers on CCDHH’s website as a resource for justice system personnel.</li> </ul>	<p>Avi, Candice, Paul, and Megan</p>	<p>January 2016</p>	<p>Steps: Collaborative partners work with CCDHH’s Media Specialist</p>

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<p><b>Strategy A: Online training ADA Compliance for Communication Access (law enforcement)</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: video record training modules that scaffolds learning about relevant topics</p> <p>Action Step 2: attend state conferences/individual agency and provide trainings</p> <p>Action Step 3: develop a variety of trainings for justice system entities that can be accessed online at the CCDHH website.</p> <p>Action Step 4: create a Mechanism for consumers to share personal experiences with the justice system. Ideally, have the CCDHH media specialist videorecord consumers sharing their experiences.</p> <p>Action Step 5: Develop training for Deaf people on how self-advocate to get a qualified interpreter or whatever communication access is preferred. Also, what to look for in a qualified interpreter.</p> <p>Action Step 6: make available training for justice system personnel when mental health/legal interpreting overlaps.</p>	<p>Avi, Candice, Paul, and Megan</p>	<p>#1, 2, 3 in progress</p> <p>#4 &amp; 5 Ongoing</p>	<p>#1 Continue to develop collaborative training modules with different entities for a variety of Justice System entities</p>
<p><b>Strategy B: Department of Corrections</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: Provide onsite workshops and online trainings.</p> <p>Action Step 2: Develop training modules for a variety of law enforcement entities with separate trainings for patrol, detention, and civilian personnel.</p>	<p>Candice Megan</p>	<p>#1 &amp; 2 Ongoing</p>	<p>#1 Facilitate on-site workshop &amp; Online trainings</p>
<p><b>Strategy C: Judicial Branch</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: participate on Judicial Advisory Language Access Oversight Committee</p> <p>Action Step 2: provide trainings for judicial staff, District Attorneys, and Public Defenders.</p> <p>Action Step 3: develop and provide training for the new judicial program that will have offices in courthouses around the state. The program will work as a drop-in “help centers” to help litigants without attorneys navigate the system. They will answer questions, explain the process, fill out forms, etc.</p> <p>Action Step 4: advocate for more use of Certified Deaf Interpreters.</p> <p>Action Step 5: provide statewide training for municipal courts.</p> <p>Action Step 6: Consult with court’s IT department to promote greater web accessibility.</p>	<p>Cheri</p>	<p># 1 Ongoing</p> <p>#2 Ongoing</p> <p>#3 Ongoing</p> <p>#4 Ongoing</p> <p>#5 Ongoing</p>	<p>#1 Cheri - Judicial Advisory Comm.</p> <p>#2 Training was recently provided to statewide Municipal Court Administrators &amp; Judges</p> <p># 3 Teleconference</p> <p># 4 Ongoing</p> <p>#5 Conference</p>

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Focus Area 2: Training on the ADA for the justice system - Content			
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training materials from collaborations with trainings for law enforcement are collapsed into a single PowerPoint presentation. Some of the presentations have been videorecorded and will be incorporated into the online trainings.</li> <li>2. Develop A workbook to take to trainings and meetings with law enforcement departments on these topics:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protocols on how to interact with DHH persons in certain situations like law enforcement encounters, jail, court, etc. CCDHH &amp; Rocky Mountain ADA Center co-present training.</li> <li>○ Available resources on communication access or blogs (could be an app).</li> <li>○ List of services/resources available for referral purposes.</li> <li>○ List of definitions of key terms that will be used during trainings.</li> <li>○ Brochure on how to work with an interpreter, and distribute relevant brochures during trainings. (Completed)</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>1: Avi, Candice, 2: Avi, Candice. information already incorporated into trainings modules for Law Enforcement</p>	<p>1: Ongoing 2: Ongoing</p>	<p>1: In process 2: Identify specific next steps and commitments</p>
<p><b>Strategy A: Collaboration with Rocky Mountain ADA Center re: New Communication Access Assessment Tool (CAAT)</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: CCDHH to develop customized CAAT for law enforcement. The Department of Justice has a communication access checklist, and CCDHH has a facilities communication access checklist.</p> <p>Action Step 2: Continue to offer new trainings, refine the trainings, and put them online with universal access; e.g., a signing interpreter for non-signers, signers with voice interpretations, and captioning. Also, market online trainings that are relevant to external stakeholders.</p>	<p>#1 Candice  #2 Candice Avi</p>	<p>1: Completed, but now working on database reporting format  2: Marketing ongoing, &amp; trainings in progress</p>	<p>1) Completed a streamlined version for walk-through assessments, but online is in progress  2: Marketing during inquiries, and word-of-mouth marketing from Law Enforcement</p>

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<p><b>Strategy B: Collaboration with Rocky Mountain ADA Center re: audit findings</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: Provide recommendations for communication access goals</p> <p>Action Step 2: Implementing timeline and accountability</p>	<p>Candice</p>	<p>1: Ongoing (as needed) 2: TBD</p>	<p>1: Through trainings, Douglas and Pueblo County Sheriff Offices, and Englewood Police Department have received recommendations for communication access goals</p> <p>2: Waiting for assigned staff member to be accountable for implementation of timelines</p>
<p><b>Strategy C: Ensure Training and TA is happening in Key areas</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: Collaboration with MCHD for Copresentations.</p>		<p>1: As needed – Megan Thomas</p>	<p>1. Updating PowerPoint presentation</p>
<p><b>Strategy D: Internal and External Communications</b></p> <p>Action Step 1: Increase awareness of trainings offered by collaboration</p> <p>Action Step 2: Promote access to interpreters via VRI: Ipads for patrol</p> <p>Action Step 3: Email TA Summit participants, and provide training updates to Google Doc.</p>	<p>Candice</p>	<p>1: Ongoing 2: Ongoing 3: Ongoing</p>	<p>1: Trainings completed for Weld and Adams County Sheriff Departments. Trainings planned for Englewood and Littleton Police Departments with additional requests from other stakeholders</p> <p>2: Access to VRI interpreters addressed during trainings and included in Action Plans (when appropriate)</p> <p>3. Update as needed</p>

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<p><b>Focus Area 4: Communication access and attorneys fund-CAF</b></p> <p>Work with the Communication Access Task Force</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a fund for communication access to attorneys</li> <li>2. Put the Legal Resources Directory up on the CCDHH website</li> </ol>	<p>CCDHH CAF task force</p>	<p>1: Ongoing 2: Completed</p>	<p>1: Bill Bethke, attorney, assisted the EAJS W.G. with wording of a proposal to establish a Communication Access Fund.</p> <p>2: Update as needed</p>

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<p><i>Strategy A: Establish Communication Access Fund for Attorneys.</i></p> <p>Action Step 1: Meet with Supreme court to discuss increasing attorney licensing fees.</p> <p>Action Step 2: CAF task force logistics</p>	<p>Cliff</p>	<p>1: Ongoing</p> <p>2: TBD</p>	<p>1: On 05/20/2015 Jamie Sudler, of the Office of Supreme Court Regulation Counsel provided nothing optimistic for the establishment of a CAF through increased attorney registration fees. The Supreme Court had increased Attorney annual registration fees in 2014 and it would be too soon to do it before 2018. CCDHH was referred to the Legislature or Supreme court. Administrator Cliff Moers will work with William Bethke, Attorney on this matter.</p> <p>2: Various stakeholder groups have reached consensus on an ideal, centrally funded, sustainable system with the goal of increasing attorney licensing fees to create a sustainable fund.</p>

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### Parking Lot

- ✓ Identify how to advocate for jails to have Videophones and CapTel: Included in trainings—CCDHH: Cliff & Timothy now working with DOC. DOC is now experimenting with videophones at the territorial prison, and if successful, they will expand the use of videophones to other facilities.
- ✓ Explore whether there is data available on how many D & HH people are in the justice system (e.g. ICON database).
- ✓ Provide training to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals on their rights in the justice system: plan to develop online trainings.
- ✓ Create a mechanism for consumers to share their stories about experiences in the justice system (e.g. on CCDHH website): CCDHH Media Specialist will work with EAJS to develop these videorecordings to be used for trainings.
- ✓ Explore offering the option of having a state ID symbol that would be used on drivers' license to indicate a person is deaf: Cliff & Cheri are currently working with DMV, but there has been a change of leadership at the DMV and this may require a revisit.
- ✓ Cliff and Timothy visited with Deaf and hard of hearing inmates at the Department of Corrections Territorial prison in Canon City (October, 2014). They interviewed inmates to ascertain how much improvement in communication access had occurred since the last visit, and determined that significant improvements have been made.
- ✓ Create a training for deaf and hard of hearing high school students on how to self-advocate for civil rights and legal protections with law enforcement.
- ✓ Create a training for family court facilitators.
- ✓ Explore the possibility of covering other minority groups during the presentations.
- ✓ Find someone who is deaf-blind to be on the training panel.