



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin *April 2014*

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.

New Outreach Consultant (hard-of-hearing related), Candice Alder



Candice is an Outreach Consultant for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) that focuses on hard-of-hearing issues and resources. She began working for the Rocky Mountain Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Center in 2002 as an ADA expert and trainer. She also interned at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB). Candice offers best practice solutions and compliance strategies that provide greater access for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. During her time with the ADA Center, Candice collaborated and contributed to several publications on effective communication, including several sign language posters. She also provided trainings to deaf and hard-of-hearing communities on their rights, while educating businesses and government agencies on their responsibilities under the ADA. In

addition to providing training seminars on the ADA, Candice has worked in conjunction with several state, county and city government agencies on providing greater communication access through outreach, consultation and technical assistance efforts. She believes that in a world without communication barriers, there are only endless possibilities for cohesion, inclusion and harmony.

CCDHH is proud to have her as a part of our family and is excited to see her begin her journey with us. Please join us in welcoming her aboard! She can be reached at candice.alder@state.co.us or 303-866-4894.

Video log on the Division of Aging and Adult Services website

In partnership with CCDHH, the Division of Aging and Adult Services under the Department of Human Services was able to develop and post its video log about the Older Americans Act on

its website. To watch it, go to <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-VetDis/CBON/1251616262433>

Hands up and flashing to the Division of Aging and Adult Services for making this possible!

Survey on the Driver's License: Communication Access Identity

CCDHH, under the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Revenue, is conducting a survey to identify on driver's license or state ID card communication access preferences for deaf, deaf-blind and hard-of-hearing individuals. This survey will help us determine viability to house a code on the back of the license or card. The purpose of this code is to enable police officers, sheriff patrol or emergency personnel to ensure access to communication for everyone.



We thank you in advance for your input! It will assist us tremendously with development of a strategic plan to accomplish this goal, to design a Colorado program that will improve communication access for everyone involved, anywhere, at any time. The survey will take only three minutes of your time.

To participate in the survey, go to the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V3BD3NS>

If you prefer to take this survey in person, please contact us at email.ccdhh@state.co.us or 720-457-3679 (VP/voice).

Thank you very much for your participation!

Survey results of access to lawyers for deaf and hard-of hearing Coloradans



CCDHH conducted a survey in Spring 2013 to determine if there were barriers for deaf and hard-of-hearing people to have access to legal services (private lawyers). This was to assist CCDHH with a Colorado strategic plan to create a Communication Access Fund for lawyers, where a small portion of their annual licensing fee would be collected for this Fund. This will enable lawyers to use this Fund for auxiliary services, such as sign language interpreting, CART services and aids to be made available to them and their deaf, deaf-blind or hard-of-hearing clients at any time and any where in the state.

Work between CCDHH and the Office of Colorado Supreme Court of Attorney Regulation to achieve this goal is underway.

Below are the results of the survey that 76 respondents took.

1. Rate how you prefer to communicate with a lawyer:

Strongly prefer interpreter services – 69%;
Strongly prefer CART services – 24%;
Strongly prefer Assistive Listening Devices or other means – 7%.

2. If you answered yes to the above question, how often do you use those services:

Sometimes – 37%;
Frequently – 26%;
Often – 22%;
Rarely – 15%.

3. Select the most frequent response you receive from lawyers when you ask to make an appointment, and ask for either interpreter or CART services:

The attorney said “I don’t have money to pay for interpreter or CART services – 40%;
The attorney said “can you lip-read” – 35%;
The attorney said “we can write messages back and forth” – 25%.

4. If your answer to #3 indicated that the lawyer refused to pay for interpreter or CART services, what did you do:

I went to the attorney’s office without any communication services – 81%;
I went to court without an attorney – 11%;
I paid for the interpreter or CART services myself – 8%.

Order of Selection letter from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

By Krista L. Dann, Deputy for Field Services

February 25, 2014

Dear Colleague:

As you are aware, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has been operating under an Order of Selection wait list since the spring of 2013. This means that since April 22, 2013, all individuals seeking vocational rehabilitation services from DVR have gone through the eligibility process, had the severity level of their disability determined and have been placed onto a wait list. This list has grown to more than 6100 people and we have been eager to determine when we might be able to begin serving our clients.

I am pleased to share with you that yesterday, February 24, 2014, DVR was able to remove five hundred individuals (500) from the most significant category of the wait list. Throughout this week, DVR staff in field offices around the state will begin contacting individuals released from the wait list by phone, traditional mail and e-mail to begin the process of employment goal identification and planning for service provision. These individuals will be given specific details about how and which counselor to contact and will be given three separate opportunities to

respond and re-engage in the rehabilitation process. We anticipate many of these individuals will be eager to begin receiving services and pursuing their career goals.

It is important to note that DVR will continue to maintain a full wait list and individuals will be added to the three severity categories of that list as they apply for DVR services and are found eligible. We hope and expect to take additional individuals off the wait list as resources are available, and we will notify you again when that occurs. Thank you for your continued support of DVR and the Coloradans with disabilities served by our agency.

CCDHH Board Vacancies

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a Type II agency, which has vacancies for the position of Commissioner. The CCDHH is a governmental agency dedicated to advancing effective communication and services for the citizens of Colorado.

The CCDHH Board Nominations Committee is seeking at least three (3) independent, enthusiastic and committed candidates for each of the following Governor appointed positions:

1. one member who is deaf,
2. one member who is hard-of-hearing, and
3. one member who is an interpreter.

It is anticipated that Commissioner Graham-Kelly (deaf) and Commissioner Neuroth (interpreter) will apply for second terms. You are welcome to apply for any positions, but be advised that re-appointments are common.

The Board advises on policies that direct the CCDHH staff to take a course of action to meet the agency functions, mission and vision, promotes the interests of the deaf and hard of hearing constituents, and ensures the quality of communication access.

Job duties include, but are not limited to:

- Serving a four-year term of office from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018
- Monitoring the functions and performance of the agency
- Preparing for Board meetings
- Attending quarterly and special Board meetings
- Becoming familiar with and able to represent/communicate the needs of your specific constituency
- Serving on Board Committees
- Representing CCDHH before the public, businesses, and the community

The positions are open to Colorado residents.

Commissioners receive no paid compensation for their service on the Board, but travel expenses are reimbursed in accordance with state travel regulations.

Submit your application for the Board position in writing to Romaine Pacheco, Director of Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, 136 State Capitol Building, Denver, Colorado 80203-1792. For more information or application, click the Offices of the Governor tab at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovHickenlooper/CBON/1249674847715> for the Boards and Commissions page.

For more information on CCDHH, please visit www.ccdhh.com or contact Lisa Weiss, Nominations Committee Chair at weisslisa@me.com.

The application deadline is at **4:00 p.m.** on Friday, **May 9, 2014.**

Commission Meeting

The next quarterly Commission meeting and community forum will be held from **4 to 7 p.m.** on **Thursday, June 5, 2014.** A meeting site is not yet determined. Our meeting notice and agenda are posted at <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>.

The CCDHH meetings and forums are always open to the public. You are more than welcome to come and be part of the informative and interactive sessions.



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