



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin August 2013

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.

5-Year Strategic Plan

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has completed its first year of a five-year strategic plan for the office and state communities. An all-day strategic planning retreat for the staff and Commissioners was held in November 2012 and finalized in January 2013. To learn more about the plan, please go to <http://www.ccdhh.com/about/goals.aspx>.

Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) update

It's an exciting time for the [Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program](#) (TEDP)! Not only has new accessories been added to the program such as headsets and neck loops to provide direct amplification to telephones, equipment has also been updated to include photo memory phones, a new captioned touch screen phone with up to 50 decibel amplification and new cordless phones.

TEDP is also in year-two of its wireless program, providing the latest smartphone devices to qualified Colorado residents. It's been a successful year one and we look forward to year two.

The [National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program](#) (NDBEDP) is also in year two. This program has received much media and community recognition and more and more deaf-blind Coloradoans are applying to receive modern telecommunications tools and training that is individually tailored to them.

We strive to stay ahead of the curve and provide the most up-to-date telecommunications equipment to best serve the Colorado deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind community.

Tip of the Bulletin

When dealing with attorneys who refuse to fulfill their obligations to provide auxiliary services, report the denial of interpreter or CART services by the law firm or lawyer to the Supreme Court Regulation Counsel. The Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel is authorized to investigate allegations of misconduct by Colorado Licensed Attorneys.

To file a complaint related to the attorney's denial of interpreter or cart services, contact the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel by calling 303-457-5800, or toll free 1-877-888-1370. Do not file a complaint in writing before contacting the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel by videophone or telephone. You will be informed if written information is helpful in evaluating your complaint. The jurisdiction of Regulation Counsel is limited to enforcement of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct.

When filing a complaint have the following information available:

- Your full name, address and phone number.
- Attorney's full name, registration number, address, law firm, and phone number.
- Date of occurrence and date of your awareness that you were denied access.
- Court location and case numbers (if you have a court case).

When filing a complaint be aware that:

- The office will NOT accept anonymous complaints.
- The attorney in question can NOT retaliate against you.
- Your grievance will require approximately 20 minutes to file.
- The average processing time for complaints is 10 days to 2 weeks.

New Deaf-owned Law Practice

By Sarah Weimer, Attorney

Weimer Law Firm LLC is proud to announce that we are now accepting clients! A deaf attorney in Colorado owns the firm. We are fluent in American Sign Language, so we can help deaf and hard-of-hearing clients with their legal needs. We have experience with trials and appeals and we handle many types of cases such as criminal defense, civil litigation, administrative law, disability law, divorces and dissolutions, child custody and support, employment law, and other legal matters. We make it easy for you to contact us by calling, text messaging, instant messaging, e-mail, VP/VRS, and other methods.

Please visit our website at www.weimerlawfirm.com where you can find our contact information, or you can e-mail us at attorney@weimerlawfirm.com.

We look forward to working with you!

Communication Access Fund survey on legal services

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continues to conduct this survey to gather information about the barriers that deaf or hard-of-hearing people face when requesting interpreter or CART services for communication access to lawyers. If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing and have requested services when you contacted a lawyer, please complete this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BVBHL7R>.

Your input will be critical to CCDHH's work to establish a centralized fund where every attorney in the state has access to for provision of auxiliary services at any time.

Greta Knigga, ASL Professor at University of Northern Colorado

By Leilani Johnson, Director
Distance Opportunities for Interpreter Training Center
Mid-America Regional Interpreter Education Center of NCIEC

It is my privilege to introduce Dr. Greta Knigga as the new ASL Professor at UNC. We've been working through the recruitment and selection process now for a number of months this year, so it is exciting to have reached the place where an offer letter has been sent from the UNC Provost and accepted by Dr. Knigga. I wanted you as a community to know how much I have appreciated your support during this process. Now I'd like to share the results of your invested time and energies and ask that you share this news with others in your community.

Greta has a doctorate (2012) in Higher Education Administration from Perdue University. Her dissertation was entitled, "The Role of Language Program Directors in the Articulation of ASL Foreign Language Programs". She has looked at both vertical and horizontal articulation needs in ASL programs, which I believe will be a great foundation to build from. Greta has a diverse work background that will be of benefit to her as she undertakes this new adventure of administering a national program in Teaching ASL. It includes eight-nine years at Wright State University as the director/faculty advisor for the Sign Language Interpreting and ASL programs; working as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in Ohio and Massachusetts; co-directing the Kentucky Deaf Access Consortium at Eastern Kentucky University; and, teaching English at the St. Rita School for the Deaf (OH). Thus, she has teaching, counseling and administrative experiences with different audiences. In addition to that, Greta has passed the CDI written exam and she led the CCIE self-study for her current institution. While she will need to hit the ground running, you can see that she already has much to bring to the task in front of her.

Greta will be starting at UNC on August 19. We have a number of things that we have to do to prepare a work space, order appropriate equipment, and so forth, while she is in the midst of moving from Ohio to Colorado with her family, which includes a husband and a young daughter (plus a few pets!).

Please join me in welcoming Greta to the Colorado community. I think we are all in for a new adventure...and I'm glad she is going to be part of it!

Postsecondary Studies by Deaf individuals survey

Timothy Chevalier is conducting confidential research with Deaf individuals who reside in the Denver Metro area, and have obtained a minimum of a Bachelors degree from an accredited College or University. Only members of the Deaf Community who use American Sign Language as their primary language are invited to participate in this survey. The purpose of the study is to examine the perceptions of Deaf individuals who have successfully completed college, and to contribute to knowledge and practice that will promote the success of current and future Deaf students who enroll in higher education.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S36G6KW>

Job opening

Position: Media Specialist (Temporary Aide)

* This is a .3 FTE (full time equivalent) on a 9-month assignment.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience with using specialized equipment related to video production and software used for web and video editing
- Proficient in writing and publishing
- Fluent in American Sign Language
- Effective working relationship with the CCDHH staff and video producers

Duties will include, but not limited to:

- Works with the CCDHH Outreach and Consultative Services (OCS) Manager or TV/Video Producer in arranging for, producing, and completing all video production projects, including script writing, and consults the OCS Manager in regards to CCDHH TV studio needs.
- Provides technology specialization to engage CCDHH, state departments, local government, community organizations, and TV producers in the production of website video logs and TV programs. Technology specialization includes video shoots, editing (cut, trim clips, add overlays, smooth transition effects, insert), audio, open captioning, and other effects.
- Assists the CCDHH Outreach and Consultative Services Manager with the development and installation of the one-way and interactive web-based seminars for CCDHH.
- Designs and develops web pages, graphics, multimedia, applications and components. Operates enhancements and fixes. Communicates with the CCDHH team for revisions of the website.

Deadline: Until filled

For more information or a copy of application, contact:

Cliff Moers, Administrator
Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1575 Sherman St., Garden Level
Denver, CO 80203
720-457-3679 (VP/voice)
cliff.moers@state.co.us
www.ccdhh.com

Commission Meeting

The next quarterly Commission meeting and community forum will be held from **4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** on **Thursday, September 5, 2013** at the Center for Independence in Grand Junction. Our meeting notice and agenda are posted at <http://www.ccdhh.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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