



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin November 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.

Joyce Brubaker, Media Specialist



The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) is delighted to have Joyce Brubaker join the team as a part-time, temporary media specialist.

She will be assisting with:

- re-designation of the CCDHH website;
- creation of video logs or TV productions of announcements, newsletters/updates, information sheets, CCDHH program information, documentaries, surveys, etc.; and
- online training development that is audience-specific and will assist various professions to more effectively interact with deaf and hard-of-hearing constituents. Examples include law enforcement, point of contacts, such as front desk staff in public agencies, and various types of service providers.

Joyce is third generation Deaf and second generation teacher in her family. She is committed to instilling a vast love of learning for all. With experience as a bilingual (American Sign Language/English) teacher and digital media technology specialist in elementary and middle schools, Joyce aims to integrate technology, education and information into a tool that empowers people with expanded awareness and knowledge. She holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master's degree in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education.

CCDHH is proud to have her as a part of our team and is excited to see her finished projects.

Joyce can be reached at joyce.brubaker@state.co.us or 720-457-3679 (VP/voice).

Outreach Consultant position

The position Namati Katungu occupied, Outreach Consultant for hard of hearing and late-deafened (formerly Education and Training Specialist), will be posted as soon as its slightly revised job description is approved by the Department of Human Services. This position is still open. Keep your eyes peeled for our job announcement!

Awarded Grantee

The improvement of early hearing detection and intervention and educational systems of deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through secondary education has been one of the major strategic goals of CCDHH. For the full \$50,000 grant, only applications that involve community planning to improve coordination, access to, and provision of educational programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through secondary education were considered for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014). The CCDHH staff, commissioners and the Department of Human Services were in favor of the full \$50,000 grant for this type of project.

Colorado Hands & Voices, who partners with the Colorado Association of the Deaf (CAD) and Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDS), was awarded the grant. Their application met all of the required criteria, including its response to the “how” components of application listed below:

- 1) re-visit of “A Blueprint for Closing the Gap”, commissioned by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in 2002;
- 2) involvement of the key players (e.g. deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, parents, Early Hearing Detection and Involvement and Deaf Education personnel and other stakeholders) in a new task force;
- 3) assurance that the deaf and hard-of-hearing voice will be a majority of this task force, strategic planning process and implementation of the action items;
- 4) initial implementation of at least one (1) revised blueprint recommendation by the end of FY 2014; and
- 5) sustainability of this task force’s work to implement the rest of the revised blueprint (e.g. additional funding or grants) beyond Fiscal Year 2014.

The CCDHH funding will be used for its efforts to re-visit the CDE report – A Blueprint For Closing the Gap. This report details deficits in the Colorado deaf education system and has seven (7) recommended improvements. Little or none of the seven (7) recommended improvements have been adopted, followed, or completed since 2002. Infusing the early hearing detection and intervention, and deaf education systems with deaf and hard-of-hearing adults will be part of the project as well.

Colorado Hands & Voices' extensive network within the early hearing detection intervention and deaf education systems, and expertise in leading such a project was a plus. They have held an intensive two-day seminar along with a written survey to spark discussion among diverse decision makers. Participants learned about two state educational systems that have undergone recent significant systems change, whether through intention or political action. The Colorado Department of Education's current achievement data, as well as clarification as to what the state monitoring system can and cannot do to improve outcomes, were part of the discussion. These events laid the foundation for this inevitable systemic change project.

Colorado Families for Hands and Voices is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing in the state. Through parent and professional collaboration, they work to help children who are deaf or hard of hearing receive an education where their unique way of communicating is respected, utilized, and developed to full proficiency. The CAD is a private, not-for-profit membership organization that advocates for cultural and linguistic equality. RMDS is a bilingual charter school in the Jefferson School District that serves the metro Denver deaf students, whose visual language is used as a valuable learning tool.

If you are interested in learning more about this grant project, please contact any of the following:

Sara Kennedy, Director
Colorado Hands & Voices
sara@cohandsandvoices.org

Jennifer Pfau, President
Colorado Association of the Deaf
jennpfau7@gmail.com

Amy Novonty, Principal
Rocky Mountain Deaf School
amyjn@rmdeafschool.net

Survey on CCDHH's proposed Vision and Mission statements

The Commissioners and CCDHH staff have been working to revise ancient CCDHH Vision and Mission statements. The statements as they currently stand are:

Vision --

CCDHH, in concurrence with the Colorado Department of Human Services 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 --

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The proposed statements are indicated in the survey in this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PL5QM8J>.

We need your vote! Just give each statement your thumb up or down. With only two questions, it will require just a minute of your time. Your vote will give the Commissioners and CCDHH staff an idea of how you embrace these statements.

Commission Meeting

The next quarterly CCDHH meeting and community forum will be held from **4 to 7 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 5, 2013**, at the Mental Health Center of Denver Recovery Center in Denver. Our meeting notice, including address and agenda, are posted at <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>.

During the community forum, there will be presenters available to share information and discuss issues. Topics include:

- 1) Accessibility of the Mental Health Center of Denver Recovery Center,
- 2) An update on the CCDHH grant project for Fiscal Year 2014, and
- 3) Information about CCDHH's Sunset Review by the Department of Regulatory Agency (DORA).

Most government agencies undergo an evaluation process that is conducted by DORA. According to CCDHH's statute, another review is due this fiscal year. DORA's Office of Policy and Research will assimilate information and draft an independent report with its findings and recommendations (i.e., resource, budgetary, and personnel matters, and whether or not to extend CCDHH for another 5, 10 or 15 years) to be made to the General Assembly by October 15, 2014.

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

