



**MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER  
4141 E. DICKENSON PLACE, DENVER

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, at 4:10 pm
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Quarterly Commission Meeting
<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, Auxiliary Service Provider Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Vice Chair and Deaf Member Amy Becktell, Secretary and Late-Deafened Member Lori Goeden, Professional working with deaf and hard of hearing community Lucas Marquardt, Hard of Hearing Member Chris Pendley, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person Cynde Vaughn, Deaf-Blind Member
<b>CCDHH STAFF</b>	Cliff Moers, Administrator; Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager; Mandy Turner, Auxiliary Services Coordinator; Timothy Chevalier, Outreach and Consultative Services Manager; JoAnne Hirsch, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator; Candice Alder, Outreach Consultant

**Agenda topics**

**1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
Welcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Neuroth called the meeting at 4:10 p.m. and thanked the Mental Health Center of Denver for hosting the meeting and thanked auxiliary service providers.</li> <li>He announced the meeting rules. When speaking, please stand and state your name, then speak or sign your comment or question.</li> <li>There is a loop system; please use the microphone.</li> <li>As a reminder, the format of the meetings has changed; Commissioners can make motions at any time throughout the meeting.</li> <li>If time allows, attendees can make comments from the floor. There is a signup sheet.</li> <li>He introduced Angela Hodkiewicz, Board of Commissions Liaison for the Department of Human Services.</li> <li>After the regular meeting there will be a Community Forum. The speakers are Cari Roberts, from FEMA Regional Preparedness Liaison, discussing the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind Video Project. Also Jan Killick, CCIRA member, and Eileen Kratzer, RMDS Teacher, to report on the Fiscal year 2016 grant report.</li> </ul>		
Introductions and Roll Call		
Approval of Agenda		
Approval of Minutes		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
Agenda and Minutes approved		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time		

**3. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON UPDATES**

**CHAIRPERSONS AND LIAISONS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council (LASAC), Matthew Ruggles Chair</b>
Three new members have been added to the committee.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geni Tierney, from Colorado Springs, representing hard of hearing community</li> <li>Lori Dowds, Colorado Springs, representing Legal Interpreters</li> </ol>	



3. Janel Paccione, Legal Interpreter, from Del Norte, representing rural communities.		
Previously the committee had been waiting for decision for the certification process from the Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf. The committee is hoping there is a decision before their next meeting.		
The independent contractor schedule was also discussed.		
They also discussed interpreter rates and reviewed the survey results. They are compiling and processing the data.		
One position is still open on the committee for the Deaf member.		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
None at this time.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None at this time.		

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Bylaws Committee Report, Amy Beckett, Commissioner</b>	
No report at this time. Bylaws are up to date.		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
None		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
None		

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Nominating Committee, Vacant Chair position</b>	
The committee needs three new members. Volunteering to be on the committee: Commissioners Graham-Kelly, Marquardt, and Vaughn. The committee is responsible for reviewing applications for open commissioner positions, nominating officers, and making nominations for the Susan J Elliott award.		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
None at this time.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Nominations for the Susan J Elliott award	Committee	End of FY17

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Grant Report, Cliff Moers, Administrator</b>	
The Subcommittee has two new members, both serving for three year terms.		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liz Konkel, representing the Deaf who will finish Shirley Gsell's "third" term (2 years remaining)</li> <li>2. Arlene Brown, representing the Public</li> </ol>		
The fiscal year 2017 grant applications have been reviewed and the selections have been made. The grant awardees will be announced pending Department approval.		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
None		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Make public announcement after the grant awards are approved.	Grant Subcommittee	End of Oct.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Deaf-Blind Task Force, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Commissioner</b>	
Commissioner Vaughn gave the report.		
The Committee began working closely with the Commission Administrative office to execute the road map and gain legislative support.		



There is funding for two new hires for the System Navigators as part of the Administrative Office. The job descriptions have been approved and are ready to post. The interviewing process can begin in October.

**DECISIONS**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

Post jobs and begin interviewing process

Administrative Office

End of Sept.

**4. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**CLIFF MOERS**

**DISCUSSION**

The annual report is a legislative requirement for the Commission. It was first submitted last year. The second report is much shorter; most of the items were moved to the appendices. The report is due September 1, 2016. The CCDHH Administrative Office is waiting for Department approval before submitting.

There are two Legislative Recommendations this year.

1. Deaf Education Steering Committee with a full-time coordinator
2. Technical clean-up of CCDHH statutes, 26-21-(101-108), C.R.S.

**DECISIONS**

None at this time

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

Get approval and submit the report.

Cliff Moers

9/1/16

Encourage Commissions and interested parties to provide community support for the recommendations.

Commissioners

As needed

**5. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS**

**CANDICE ALDER**

**DISCUSSION**

Candice Alder reported that the number one question she receives from hard of hearing constituents is how to get affordable hearing aids. The current list of funding organizations on the CCDHH internet are out of date, and many are out of money. In Colorado, hearing aids are covered for children up to age 18. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) classes hearing aids and durable medical equipment (DME) which is considered "cosmetic." Charity aids, or aids acquired through the vocational rehabilitation, may take months or years to obtain. Also, charity hearing aids may not provide maintenance for cleaning, ear molds, and replacements. They may not be the best fit for the client. These aids may not be equipped with a telecoil or have the telecoil activated. Many stories were shared to demonstrate and support the need to have affordable hearing aid solutions in Colorado.

Candice Alder has researched approaches in other states that have been successful in getting insurance coverage for hearing aids. Georgia is an example.

The CCDHH is forming a Hearing Aid Task Force, guided by Candice Alder, to research and suggest solutions. She has received input from audiologists, hard of hearing individuals, government officials, people on the insurance exchange, hearing loss support groups, and other organizations serving hard of hearing people.

The main effort is to change the language about hearing aids in insurance rules from DME to essential medical benefit.

Other ideas include pulling together data and examples of how hearing aids can improve the quality of life, contributing to the safety, employment, and better mental and physical health for hearing aid users. Data can support how the cost of hearing aids will reduce the cost of other health and employment issues.

**DECISIONS**

First task force meeting is planned for October.

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Quarterly Commission Meeting



ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact Candice Alder if you are interested in serving. Also promote and share information about the Task Force.	Commissioners	As needed

At this time, Commissioner Neuroth needed to leave the meeting and Commissioner Graham-Kelly became the meeting facilitator.

**6. FUTURE OF TEDP**

**JOANNE HIRSCH**

DISCUSSION		
The name of the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) is changing to Communication Technology Program (CTP) to better describe the equipment that can be distributed. This name is more encompassing.		
Ms. Hirsch gave an update of the types of equipment that are now available for distribution and the many types of communication needs supported.		
She also discussed the results of the recent survey in which she received 200 responses. This has helped determine the various options the program can make available.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
If the Commissioners have any ideas about this program, contact Joanne Hirsch.	Commissioners	As needed.

**7. COMMUNICATION FUND ACCESS UPDATE**

**TIMOTHY CHEVALIER AND CHERI DAVIS**

DISCUSSION		
Background: The CCDHH Communication Access Fund (CAF) Task Force had been established to remove barriers that deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind individuals encounter when seeking legal counsel. A survey had been conducted in March 2013 and the results of the survey showed that eighty-two percent (82%) of the 204 respondents indicated that there was a general lack of willingness on the part of attorneys to provide auxiliary services; e.g., interpreter and Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services. After the survey, the CAF Task Force recommended the creation of a centrally funded, sustainable system.		
Funding options were examined though establishing a communication access fund through an increase in annual attorney licensure fees. After years of discussion, resistance, and objection, this option has been abandoned.		
The Supreme Court recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCDHH should establish a private foundation for attorneys through a separate entity to take and distribute the funds</li> <li>2. The Colorado Department of Human Services could ask the legislature for an allocation to address this need and then a sustainable fund could be established with perhaps the Colorado Bar Association managing funds.</li> </ol>		
CCDHH representatives then explored the possibility of tapping into the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation (COLTAF) to allocate monies for communication access. COLTAF administers Colorado's Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. This program uses the interest on lawyers' pooled trust accounts in order to improve access to civil justice.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Follow up on the IOLTA funding option	CAF Task Force	When IOLTA representatives are available



Invite Deaf Overcoming Violence through Empowerment (DOVE) representatives to the meeting	CAF Task Force	When IOLTA representatives are available
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**8. INTERPRETING LEADERSHIP SUMMITT**

**CHERI DAVIS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
<p>Background: A Motion was made by Commissioner Neuroth at the March meeting for CCDHH to take steps for a facilitated “forum” or “town hall” to begin dialogue on these topics with key stakeholders on interpreting issues.</p>		
<p>Follow up on meeting in March 2016 regarding a national report for a study related to interpreting trends across the nation. Three key areas identified that are currently emerging as common topics of discussion in Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interpreter Licensure vs. Current Consumer Protection Act</li> <li>- Increased use of VRI</li> <li>- Opportunities for CDI’s</li> </ul>		
<p>Decision to set up a community forum or town hall. Administrator Moers, Commissioner Neuroth, and Cheri Davis met to discuss first steps and identify key stakeholders. The list is in the report to the commissioners. Sparks Institute can be the facilitator.</p>		
<p>Next steps are to have a kick-off meeting. Angie Lawson from Sparks Institute will prepare a proposal for stating the work in January 2017.</p>		
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
We will continue with this initiative		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Create the Statement of Work for Sparks Institute	Cliff Moers and Cheri Davis	Before Jan 2017
None		

**9. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS)**

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Beckett