

# STATE OF COLORADO



**Colorado Department of Human Services**

*people who help people*

**OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION  
COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Reggie Bicha  
Executive Director

**COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
Center for Independence  
740 Gunnison Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
September 5, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioners Debbie Mohny (Chair), Kirk Neuroth (Vice Chair), Leslie Ralphe (Secretary), Amy Beckett, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Liz Konkel, excused; Lisa Weiss, excused

**CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:**

Cliff Moers, Administrator; Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager; Timothy Chevalier, Outreach Consultant for the Deaf Community;

**INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:**

Interpreters: Lesa Thomas, Tina Kissick  
CART Reporter: Shelly Cozo

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The June, 2013 meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

**5. COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT, CHAIR MOHNEY**

- Chair Mohney welcomed visitors, thanked the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services, and expressed appreciation to the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Commission staff for their work. She announced that the meeting is fully accessible, with interpreters, an induction loop, and remote CART captioning.
- Chair Mohney announced that after the regular meeting, the community forum will feature a presentation on hearing loops by Laura Hansen of Assist2Hear and Daniel Tibbs, an audiologist with Widex.
- The commission consists of seven members, appointed by the governor to represent the citizens; the terms for the deaf, hard of hearing and interpreter positions will end June 30, 2014; the late-deafened, parent, professional and public terms continue through June 30, 2016.
- Chair Mohney encouraged everyone to share their concerns with the commission office and work with the commission so that the state government is accessible and constituent needs are met.
- Many of the accommodations used by deaf and hard of hearing persons work for other people. Captioning is a universal accommodation. It is required for emergency broadcasts on television. If it is missing, the station should be contacted so they can rectify the situation. The commission provides telecommunications equipment for those who cannot afford it.
- The commission has also established programs to ensure access to legal services and mental health services.

**6. REPORTS**

**Commission Administrator's Report, Administrator Moers**

- Administrator Moers welcomed everyone and affirmed the commission's commitment to visiting the western part of the state regularly in order to share information and hear the voices of constituents.
- The commission is about to post a job position for a media specialist. This will be a temporary (nine month) position, about 16 hours a week. The website needs to be revised and made more user-friendly. More information will become available on video blogs, in ASL, with voice and captioning as well. The commission will also be developing webinars to reach the needs of a wide variety of citizens.
- Outreach and Consultative Services has been involved in training the police in several cities and counties, including Morgan, Weld, Adams and Douglas counties, and Englewood, Littleton and Pueblo. The commission also partners with DOVE, the advocacy agency for abused deaf women and children, with the ADA information center in Colorado Springs, with the Helen Keller National Center and the Mental Health Center of Denver. Information from these various partners will be used to develop the webinars. In addition, the commission plans to air information on public television.
- When the new outreach consultant for the hard of hearing position is filled, the commission plans to focus on reaching out to the hard of hearing community and focusing on technology.

- This year, the commission will be evaluated by the Department of Regulatory Agencies for a five, ten or twenty year extension (or termination). Commission members will be contacted to provide information and feedback.
- Governor Hickenlooper has decided to limit term membership on all boards and commissions to two terms. The commission bylaws and handbook are currently being reviewed. The Department of Human Services is also requiring those serving on boards to take some online training for their board service.
- In response to a question about a previously proposed legislative forum, Administrator Moers explained that due to the role of the commission within the Department of Human Services, it is limited in that capacity; the legislative liaison will have to approve anything that the commission plans to host.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### **A. Legal Auxiliary Services**

- Cheri Davis explained that the commission provides sign language interpreters and CART services for the state of Colorado courts, probation and court ordered treatment. Some of the courts are wired for assistive listening, but citizens who are asked to serve jury duty or go to court for any reason should contact the county clerk to arrange the appropriate accommodation with the commission.
- In preparation for the sunset review, the courts, probation and treatment centers will be surveyed about their satisfaction with the service providers, office services and on-line scheduling systems. The service providers (CART and sign language interpreters) will also be surveyed.
- Ms. Davis also announced that two vacancies on the Advisory Council have been filled by Liz Keyser, a sign language interpreter, and Mark Angelo, a hard of hearing person with expertise in technology. A subcommittee of the Advisory council recently finished working with Ms. Davis on a fee schedule with travel and cancellation policies for all service providers who contract with Legal Auxiliary Services in 2014.
- Legal Auxiliary Services is also working to begin providing video remote interpreting services in rural areas using interpreters in Colorado Springs or Denver.
- The commission has also worked with the Office of Behavioral Health to clarify the services, specifically the court-ordered ones, which need to be provided through Legal Auxiliary Services. There is now an interagency agreement with the Mental Health Institutes that has greatly reduced the demands on the commission budget.

#### **B. Bylaws Committee**

Chair Beckett reported that once the vision and mission statements have been revised and approved, the handbook and bylaws will be revisited.

#### **C. Nominations Committee**

Chair Weiss was absent; Chair Mohney reported that the nominations committee will need to put out notices for applicants to fill vacancies in the terms ending in the summer of 2014.

#### **D. Grant Program Subcommittee**

Administrator Moers informed the commissioners that they will be receiving confidential information in the next week concerning grant recipients and asked for their blessing.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Graham-Kelly gave an update on the vision statement revision process. A task force committee composed of staff and commissioners met and drafted a vision and mission statement for the commission's approval. The proposed vision statement is "We envision a barrier-free Colorado." The proposed mission statement is "To be the catalyst for a sustainable network, committed to cultural and linguistic equality." These statements will be revisited for approval at the December meeting.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There will be mental health nurse assistants' training in Grand Junction on September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 5, and deaf and hard of hearing people from the community are encouraged to attend.
- Commissioner Beckett expressed appreciation to the Center for Independence for hosting the meeting. She also announced the next meeting of the Western Colorado Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association on Saturday, October 5.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ralphe, Secretary