



MINUTES

DECEMBER 1, 2016

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

MEETING CALLED BY	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, at 4:05 pm
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Commission Meeting
COMMISSIONERS	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 in the field of deafness Lucas Marquardt, Hard of Hearing Member (remote) Chris Pendley, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person Cynde Vaughn, Deaf-Blind Member
CCDHH STAFF	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
INTERPRETERS	Leslie Blankis, Ryan Cowley, Becky Wells, Michelle Hoagland (SSP), Trish Messinger (CART)

Agenda topics

1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING

DISCUSSION		
Welcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Neuroth called the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and thanked the Mental Health Center of Denver for hosting the meeting and thanked auxiliary service providers. He announced the meeting rules. When speaking, please stand and state your name, then speak or sign your comment or question. There is a loop system; please use the microphone. As a reminder, the format of the meetings has changed; Commissioners can make motions at any time throughout the meeting. If time allows, attendees can make comments from the floor. There is a signup sheet. After the regular meeting there will be a Community Forum. The speaker is Rebecca Herr providing an update on the grant awarded to ALDA, Association of Late Deafened Adults. 		
Introductions and Roll Call		
Approval of Agenda		
Approval of Minutes		
DECISIONS		
Agenda and Minutes approved		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		

3. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON UPDATES

CHAIRPERSONS AND LIAISONS

DISCUSSION	Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council (LASAC), Matthew Ruggles Chair
Introduction of new members in attendance: Geri Tierney, Michelle Green, Lori Dowds and Janel Paccione. Their terms expire in February 2018.	
At the last LASAC meeting they agreed to proceed on updating the standard operating procedural (SOP) manual. The process for making the updates has been defined.	

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The independent contractor feedback was also discussed. No major concerns were noted.

There were fee schedule comments and concerns to clarify with the stakeholders.

The Registry for the Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) placed a moratorium on testing for certification. This is still in place making it difficult to move forward. However, the committee decided to proceed with the SOP Manual, rather than having specific rules, because this is more easily updated and maintained. Any rules can then refer to the SOP Manual. The stakeholders will be involved in the process.

Administrator Moers talked about potential amendments to the statute. The Administrative office also plans to modify rules within the telecommunications distribution program and the grant program. The plan is to submit the rules modifications for all programs as a technical cleanup to the statute.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

None at this time.

DISCUSSION **Bylaws Committee Report, Amy Beckett, Commissioner**

No report at this time. Bylaws are up to date.

DECISIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

None

DISCUSSION **Nominating Committee, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly**

No update at this time.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Nominations for the Susan J Elliott award

Committee

End of FY17

DISCUSSION **Grant Report, Cliff Moers, Administrator**

No report at this time.

DECISIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

None

DISCUSSION **Deaf-Blind Task Force, Cynde Vaughn, Commissioner**

The Task Force is working with the Commission Administrative office to hire the two positions that were approved and funded by the legislature: Service Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. The interviewing process is underway and Deaf Blind representatives have been involved in the second-level interview. These are difficult positions to fill. The Deaf Blind Service Coordinator position is in the process of being filled and the other position had the application process extended.

The Deaf Blind Task Force talked about the road map at the last meeting. This was developed two years ago. The goals and steps need to be reviewed and the responsibilities between the Task Force and the Commission need to be properly assigned.

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When the positions are filled, the Task Force wants to hold a community event to reach out to consumers, SSPs and interpreters to introduce them to people who are active in supporting Deaf Blind people, such as the Commission, Helen Keller, Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Education.

If people need referral or information before the Outreach Coordinator position is filled, they can be referred to the Task Force.

DECISIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Complete hiring process for Outreach Coordinator

Administrative Office

End of Jan

4. STATE AGENCY AUXILIARY SERVICES SURVEY

ANGIE LAWSON, SPARK POLICY RESEARCHER

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the survey get more information about how the Executive Branch of the state and the agencies under this branch coordinated auxiliary services if an employee or consumer requested such services. The survey assessed perceptions and experiences of state employees who might coordinate the services.

Spark received 79 responses from 16 Executive agencies. About 50% were at the Executive Level, 25% were managerial level, and 25% administrative and non-managers. There were also various levels of years of experience in the job and also with awareness (or not) of auxiliary services.

The details of the survey results were displayed and discussed at the meeting and are available on request.

Recommendations as a result of the survey: The Executive Branch needs to follow the Legal Auxiliary Services model similar to the Legal Auxiliary Services of CCDHH. Recommended is having a central provider for auxiliary services, with policies, procedures, tracking and reporting in place.

DECISIONS

A motion was made by Chair Neuroth and passed.

1. Accept the conclusions and recommendations of the survey.
2. Select two Commissioners to assist the Administrative office staff to create details about proposing a plan to centralize the auxiliary services. These Commissioners would bring back this plan to the entire commission for review prior to submission to the legislature.
3. Any meetings will need to follow the open meeting rules (Sunshine Law).

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Lori Goeden and Chris Pendley volunteered with Kirk Neuroth as an alternate to work on proposal.

Committee

By next Commission meeting

5. COMMUNICATION ACCESS FUND FOR LEGAL COUNSEL

TIMOTHY CHEVALIER

DISCUSSION

Dr. Chevalier gave background information about the issue, including the administrative office's efforts to find funding for a communication access fund for legal counsel through the legislature, Colorado Bar Association, and the state Supreme Court. The Administrative office has also sponsored a survey to show the need for such a fund.

The advice has been to ask for the services when using legal counsel, but the question of who pays continues to be an issue for consumers, in spite of educations regard the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) education and other tax credit.

The Administrative office is now asking for community involvement and input regarding this issue so we can go to the legislature to propose funding.

The Administrative office will be seeking to collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and the



community to support the recommendations to present to the legislature.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Administrative office to collaborate with other organizations

Task force

Report next meeting

6. INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS

CANDICE ALDER AND LUCAS MARQUARDT

DISCUSSION

First meeting of the Hearing Aid Task Force met November 18 and had about 10 people in the initial meeting, with good cross-representation, including hard of hearing, deaf, and deaf blind individuals. Also included were agencies and providers. This meeting was held after the Task Force conducted several outreach meeting with interested and impacted groups.

Three approaches to gaining insurance coverage for hearing aids were discussed.

1. Go directly to insurance companies to ask for coverage. While it is unlikely this could be successful, it is very likely that state legislature will ask if this has been done.
2. Advocate with the state Insurance Commission to change language within the exchange. Currently, hearing aids are defined as durable medical equipment, not medically necessary. The goal is to change the language to medically necessary devices.
3. Work through the legislative process to create a mandate for a law or legal support to provide access to hearing aids. The state has legislation to provide hearing aids to age 18, but no coverage for adults. The task force discussed amending that bill.

The task force has identified some action plans, including more study and research and to review what other states have done that have been successful. Also, research and provide statistical evidence that having hearing aids benefits the person throughout life for physical and mental health, as well as benefitting senior citizens. Task Force continues to recruit allies in the community such as audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, and senior agencies.

Sub-committees identified: Research, Legislation, and Recruitment

Leadership of the Task Force is being transitioned to Commission Marquardt. He hopes to have regular looped and captioned meeting to keep the momentum. This is a Community Task Force, not a Commission Task Force. But the Commission will support and advise.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Commissioners can be involved if interested.

Commissioners

As interested

7. HOURLY RATE FOR CONTRACT SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS SURVEY

CHERI DAVIS

DISCUSSION

Ms. Davis reported that the full report is completed and has been published. This will be sent to the Commissioners and will be available on the website. It will also be in the monthly memo to interpreters and CART providers.

The rate survey was done for interpreters only, not CART providers. CART service rates were recently increased, so the focus was on the interpreting services as these had not been increased since 2015.

The Administrative office did an assessment comparing rates in states with similar demographics. Ms. Davis also sent a survey to private, state, and local government agencies to ask their rates.

Identified: Status 1 Legal Interpreter (with specialized legal certificate), Status 2 RID Certification plus some legal training, and Status 4 for court-ordered treatment.

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The result of the study showed that the rates in Colorado are in-line with other states, even accounting for cost of living. The study supports the rates for 2017 and should help educate interpreters about how the rates are determined.

DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		

8. DEAF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

INSPIRING CHANGE TASK FORCE

DISCUSSION		
Postponed to the March 2017 Commission meeting		
DECISIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

9. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Public Comment:

Candace Alder reported that she is resigning from the CCDHH at the end of January 2017 to take a position with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She will be a disability integration counselor, helping deaf individuals during times of disaster. The Commission staff expressed appreciation for her three years of service as Outreach Consultant.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Beckett