

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

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

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COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING December 6, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Debbie Mohney (Chair), Leslie Ralphe, Kirk Neuroth, Lisa Weiss, Elizabeth Konkell, Mary Pat Graham Kelly, Amy Beckett.

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

Cliff Moers, Administrator; Namati Katungu, Education and Training Specialist for the Hard of Hearing Community; Mandy Turner, Legal Auxiliary Services Coordinator; Timothy Chevalier, Education and Training Specialist for the Deaf Community, JoAnne Hirsch, TEDP Coordinator.

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Interpreters: Tricia Frank, Norma Blanke, Darlene Ensenat
CART Reporter: Claudette Mondragon.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The June, 2012 minutes were approved. Chair Mohney appointed Commissioner Ralphe to take minutes for the current meeting.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Mohney

- Commission Chair Mohney welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services, and expressed appreciation to the Colorado Department of Human Services and to the Commission staff. She announced that after the business portion of the meeting, there would be a community forum presented by AT&T Relay of Colorado.
- Chair Mohney recognized the newly appointed commissioners: Mary Pat Graham Kelly, the Deaf Representative; Lisa Weiss, the parent representative; Liz Konkel, the professional representative; Amy Beckett, representing the public; and Leslie Ralph, the late-deafened representative appointed for a second term. Kirk Neuroth, representative of the interpreting community, and Chair Mohney, representative of the hard of hearing community, are continuing to serve terms beginning in 2010. Everyone is encouraged to get to know their commissioners and staff, and keep them informed of any needs that arise.
- Chair Mohney reported on the recent commission retreat, where the commissioners discussed the five-year strategic plan and began revising the Vision and Mission statements. At the retreat, staff members reported on the work of the various CCDHH programs, which have grown dramatically in number and scope since the commission was formed in 2000. She thanked the staff for their dedication and hard work.

Commission Administrator's Report, Administrator Moers

- Administrator Moers expressed thanks for a full board and presented the commissioners with CCDHH shirts to promote community awareness of the commission and its work.
- Moers proposed changing the title of the Education and Training Program to Outreach and Consultative Services (OCS). The commissioners approved the change.
- Staff members will be meeting with representatives from the Division of Motor Vehicles in January to discuss a plan to provide coded information on Colorado driver's licenses to identify the need of auxiliary aids/services for both the officer and/or other individuals and the deaf and/or hard of hearing person. Having this information on the license would be optional, but it would provide quick access to information if a person is questioned by a police officer, and would also be helpful if a deaf or hard of hearing person had a medical emergency. One issue that needs to be addressed is whether an individual should have to provide proof that they are deaf or hard of hearing in order to be identified as such on the license. Burdening individuals with paperwork or requiring doctor's visits seems unfair, and staff members are looking at ways to avoid such a requirement, perhaps by fining a person for fraud for falsely claiming to be either deaf or hard of hearing. Once the code system is in place, the next step will involve training police departments and other organizations about appropriate services to provide.

- Administrator Moers discussed the proposed Communication Access Fund. The commission is working to establish a general pool for the provision of auxiliary services that comes from a fee added to licensing costs for attorneys in the state of Colorado, so that attorneys could work with deaf or hard of hearing persons without bearing a disproportionate additional cost for the auxiliary service. Currently, many attorneys are unwilling to represent deaf and hard of hearing persons because of the additional cost. A task force will be meeting in January with a person from the Colorado Supreme Court who is responsible for regulation. It may take up to two years to institute such a program, and Colorado would be the first state to do it. Given that Colorado has about 25,000 active licensed attorneys, the fee would not need to be substantial. Once this fee has been established, the next step would be to create a similar fund for medical professionals, and representatives from Health Care Policy and Finance (representing Medicaid) have expressed interest in moving ahead to establish a communication access fund at this time as well. These representatives will also be working with Namati Katungu to mandate or at least improve insurance coverage for hearing aids for adults.
- Hands and Voices will be hosting two all-day forums on educational issues in February and April using grant money received from the CCDHH. The February forum presenters will include a commission administrator from the state of Minnesota and the person responsible for outreach services for deaf and hard of hearing persons in the state of Washington. Ruth Mathers, the Deaf Education Consultant from the Colorado Department of Education, will report on data recently collected on deaf education in the state of Colorado. Additional presenters are being planned for the April seminar.

Committee Chair Reports

A. Legal Auxiliary Services

- Christine Pendley, Chair of the Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council (LASAC), reported on the LASAC's November 27th meeting. The members selected ten different issues to focus on and divided into small groups to work on each issue. For example, one group will focus on improving assistive listening devices in courtrooms for trial observers or juries. Another group will focus on the pay scale for interpreters and CART providers to determine whether it is cost-effective for the state. These small groups will work together between the quarterly meetings and report back to the LASAC.
- Two LASAC members will be serving on the Communication Access Fund task force.
- The LASAC recently filled the remaining vacancy for a Deaf representative on the council. Matthew Ruggles has agreed to serve in that position.

B. Bylaws Committee

- Bylaws Committee Chair Ralphe will be stepping down from the committee, and anyone interesting in serving in that position should talk to Chair Mohney.

- Commissioner Ralphe reported that the committee recently finished a major revision of the handbook, which involved merging two manuals and eliminating repetition and outdated information.

C. Nominations Committee

Commissioner Ralphe reported that an interim nominating committee met recently to develop a slate of officers to nominate for the upcoming 2-year term.

D. Media Access Committee

Chair Mohney reported that the Media Access Committee chair position is currently vacant. The purpose of this committee is to look for ways to improve on access to the media for Deaf and hard of hearing persons. Previously this committee has worked to air public service interstitials on public television.

E. Grant Program Subcommittee

Administrator Moers reported that the grant program selected recipients and distributed grants in the summer and fall, and is currently inactive until the next cycle. The commission will ask these organizations to report on their work next summer.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Five-Year Strategic Plan

- Administrator Moers reported on the Five-year Strategic Plan. The CCDHH will be reviewed by the Department of Regulatory Agencies next year, so the staff decided to set up a five-year strategic plan instead of a three-year plan. The Spark Policy Institute was involved with the development of the plan. Denise McHugh, Senior Project Manager, reported on the plan.
- Ms. McHugh explained that the strategic plan was a result of input from the office staff and commissioners at the retreat. Commissioners and staff also expressed interest in revising the Vision and Mission statements, but those will be drafted at a later date. The strategies are broad action plans to give the commission direction; action steps will be developed to implement them.
- The seven goals were
 - Public Information: To serve as a clearinghouse for consumers, public and private entities, and the general public
 - Telecommunications Equipment: To expand and improve the provision of telecommunications equipment and/or accessories to qualifying deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals
 - Legal Auxiliary Services: To expand and improve the provision of auxiliary services and aids to the State Court System and consumers

- Outreach and Consultative Services: To promote compliance with Federal, state and local accessibility laws and regulations through collaboration and policy development efforts with consumers, public and private entities, and other stakeholders to develop equivalent access to services
- Grant Program: To administer grants annually available to state agencies, state-operated programs, local government, or private nonprofit or not-for-profit community-based organizations
- System Advocacy and Program Development: To improve communication access at all levels of government and community-based systems through program development and systemic change.
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention and Deaf Education: To improve early hearing detection and intervention, and educational systems of deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through secondary education.
- The commission voted to approve the seven goals and the strategies to achieve them, with a request to revisit the wording of the final draft at the March meeting.
- Commissioner Graham Kelly reported on progress with the Vision and Mission statements. The Mission statement should be written first, emphasizing the purpose of the commission, and it should be short and memorable. The Vision statement should be more detailed, with strategies to achieve the Mission. The commission agreed to continue revising these two statements.

B. Election of Officers

On behalf of the Nominating committee, Commissioner Ralphe nominated Debbie Mohny to serve as Chair, Kirk Neuroth to serve as Vice Chair, and Leslie Ralphe to serve as Secretary for a two-year term. Amy Beckett seconded the motion, and they were elected to serve through June of 2014.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Ralphe,
Secretary