



**Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health and Substance Abuse System-level Advocacy Update
August 28, 2009**

The Commission Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) Implementation Team is pleased to announce that it was awarded a grant of over half million dollars for the period of September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011 from the Strategic Allocation Committee/Department of Human Services. The Team received every dollar it requested!

The Mental Health Center of Denver in partnership with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were funded to implement the training and technical assistance center described in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Action Plan. The funding supports:

- A project coordinator position to work with the Implementation Team;
- Communication access for implementation team and other key meetings (interpreters and CART providers);
- An assessment of training and technical assistance needs among mental health and substance abuse providers;
- Technology assistance for providers throughout the state;
- Training and technical assistance on appropriate delivery of services for providers throughout the state; and
- Stipends for family and consumer participation.

The four goals of the Action Plan, guiding the implementation of this grant, will lead to a long-term, sustainable approach to providing services. The goals include developing a long-term governance structure, establishing a technical assistance and education center that partners with a statewide network of competent providers, developing standards for providing services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, and establishing and engaging a network of consumer and family leaders.

Attached is the job announcement for the Project Coordinator position for Statewide Behavioral Health Systems Development for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coloradans.

See <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/advocacy/mhsa.aspx> for more information about our mental health and substance abuse system-level advocacy.