



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin July 2010

VISION

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in concurrence with the Colorado Department of Human Service vision, seeks to become the nation's leader in empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, families, and communities to become safe and independent.

MISSION

To promote the interests of our constituents and to work to ensure the quality of communication access for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing living in the state of Colorado.

New Office

We have moved! Due to a growing staff and the need of a room for the Commission's new TV studio, the Department of Human Services, especially the Division of Boards and Commissions where the CCDHH is housed, was able to identify a space in the same building for the CCDHH to occupy. The CCDHH, along with other Division of Boards and Commissions units, were blessed to be able to change spaces and/or move to new spaces during the month of June.

The CCDHH has a nice big space in a big room on the Garden level in the same building with new furniture, conference room and media room.

Our new address and contact information are:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| | 1575 Sherman St., Garden Level |
| | Denver, CO 80203 |
| | 303-866-4734 TTY |
| | 303-866-4824 voice |
| | 720-457-3679 VP/voice |

New Faces at the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Governor Ritter has appointed two new Commissioners to serve four-year terms ending June 30, 2014, and also re-appointed Commissioner Debbie Mohney as a hard of hearing member. The new Commissioners are:

Ms. Nicki Runge (deaf): Nicki is a freelance Director of Theater. Ms. Runge has worked extensively in the theater, and has taught cast members American Sign Language. Ms. Runge attended St. John's International School in Waterloo, Belgium, and received a B.A. degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Ms. Runge's international outlook, cultural interests and Northern Colorado roots will prove to be an asset to the Commission. She resides in Greeley.

Mr. Kirk Neuroth (interpreter): Kirk is very familiar with the work of the Commission. Mr. Neuroth received a B.A. in English Literature from Wheaton College and is a graduate of Front Range Community College, where he received a degree in ASL/English Interpreting. Mr. Neuroth is a certified Interpreter and is active in the profession with the Colorado Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Mr. Neuroth is a very involved community member who will bring interpreting issues and concerns to the attention of the Commission. He is a resident of Denver.

The office has also hired a new Auxiliary Services Coordinator, Carmena Minor, and a part-time Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator, Veramarie McIngvale.

Carmena Minor began her career working for the AT&T Relay Centers in Virginia shortly after the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted in 1990. Ms. Minor relocated several times with the relay centers and ended up in Seattle where she earned her degree in Sociology at the University of Washington. Carmena also has an extensive background in project management and began working for the State of Colorado four years ago. She worked in licensing at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment before transferring to the Department of Regulatory Agencies where she was the Enforcement Analyst in the Business and Technical Section. Her knowledge of sign language comes from growing up with her deaf sister and it was the personal connections she made while interacting with the deaf community that inspired her to take the position with the Commission. Carmena currently lives in the Denver area with her amazing son and two unruly dogs.

Veramarie McIngvale was born in Chicago, IL, Veramarie graduated with a Bachelor of Science from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her Master of Arts in Deaf Education from Ball State University gave her the opportunity to live on campus at Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) as a Graduate Assistant. While in Indianapolis, she completed the interpreter training program at Vincennes University / IUPUI in Indianapolis, IN. Her vast array of experiences include: working at Lawrence Township schools in Indianapolis, Weekend House Manager at Thresholds Deaf Bridge North in Chicago, Deaf-Blind outreach specialist for the Chicago Lighthouse, and was Access Living's staff interpreter. She is currently a RID-certified interpreter since 2009. Veramarie and her husband Stephen currently live in Broomfield, CO. In her spare time, she enjoys running, dancing, and learning about new technology.

Farewell Note

The staff, Commissioners and visitors bid farewell to two Commissioners, Chair Joe Benedetto and Commissioner Nancy Jean Eubanks, at the June 3rd meeting. They departed after their terms ended on June 30, 2010. Vice-chair Mohny and former Commissioner Elliott shared some of their fond memories and gratitude for Chair Benedetto's exemplary 10-year service. A plaque of appreciation was presented and there was cake for all.

Chair Benedetto, who served as a deaf member, was with the Commission from the very start, including work on the legislation, which created the CCDHH. He took over as Chair of the Commission after Susan Elliott ended her two terms in 2006. He was instrumental in the passing of the legislation and start-up of the Commission.

Commissioner Eubanks served as an interpreter and as Chair of the Interpreting Committee for four years. She was also the Commission liaison to the Legal Auxiliary Services Council.

The commitment, time and energy of these two individuals is greatly appreciated. Thank you Chair Benedetto and Commissioner Eubanks!

About Legal Auxiliary Services

The Commission's Legal Auxiliary Services has a new direct videophone number, voice phone number and e-mail address.

720-949-7483 videophone
303-866-4258 voice
las.ccdhh@state.co.us.

Our new Auxiliary Services Coordinator is in place and has hit the ground running. Carmena Minor has started to learn about the scheduling software, the judicial system and the provision of auxiliary services. Her positive energy and enthusiasm have made her a great addition to our team.

The Legal Auxiliary Services will begin to gradually assume responsibility of scheduling auxiliary services for 22 judicial districts in the state. Further information about our plan to fully manage the scheduling program will be detailed in the next Bulletin.

Grant Program

A total of 11 applications for a total of \$40,978 were considered for fiscal year 2010 funds. The total amount of approved applications is \$13,134.

The following grantees were awarded with grants for fiscal year 2010:

Name: **Colorado Hands and Voices**
Amount: \$3,000.00
Project: The Parent Funding Support

This grant was used for the Hands and Voices Parent Scholarship Fund. The Fund is used as a source of funding for families to access services, resources, and needed support for families when no other funding sources are available. Many organizations in Colorado provide opportunity for families to access support and activities, but there is often a fee associated with it, which prohibits many families from participation.

Name: **Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind**
Amount: \$4,950.00
Project: Colorado Connections (partnership with rural areas)

This project provided nine (9) Logitech Webcam Pros 9000 and nine Dell Notebooks to school districts and BOCES in rural areas of Colorado serving up to 62 deaf and hard of hearing

students. The purchased equipment will be used by the students on a loaner basis and used within the school district or BOCES. This is to enhance and extend students' ability to connect with other students with varying hearing acuity around the state and with deaf and hard of hearing adult role models.

Name: **Independent Life Center, Inc.**
Amount: \$1,805
Project: Assistive Devices (hearing aids, etc.)

This funded the Independent Life Center's Direct Services Fund for the purchase of assistive devices. These devices were distributed to deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages who have low vision. A tremendous variety of assistive technology is available today, providing the opportunity for nearly all people to access information technology.

Name: **Disabled Resource Services**
Amount: \$3,379.00
Project: Alerting Equipment

This enabled the Disabled Resource Services' purchase of alerting equipment. This equipment alerts deaf and hard of hearing individuals with doorbell, alarm clock, and other devices. The equipment was distributed to 30 deaf and hard of hearing consumers who reside in Larimer or Jackson Counties. Individuals whose financial disclosure statement verifies that they meet the government's guidelines for low income will be qualified to receive the equipment.

Congratulations to these awarded grantees!

\$50,000 is available to organizations for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011). Grant amounts for this award period will be between \$500 and \$5,000 with no single grant to exceed this cap. **A fifty percent (50%) matching fund is not required at this time.**

The Controller of the Department of Human Services Division of Accounting has authorized advance payments for Fiscal Year 2011 which means organizations will not have to be funded on a cost reimbursable basis.

All applications are due by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 30, 2010.**

For full application guidelines, instructions and materials, please see the links below:
http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/resources/grant_program.aspx

Commission Meetings

Mark your calendar with the fiscal year 2011 Commission quarterly meetings! They will be held on the following:

Thursday, September 2, 2010
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

Thursday, December 2, 2010
Colorado Department of Human Services (tentative)
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

Thursday, March 3, 2011
Colorado Department of Human Services (tentative)
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

Thursday, June 2, 2011
Colorado Department of Human Services (tentative)
1575 Sherman St., 6th Floor Conference Room
Denver, CO 80203

* Every meeting is held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The September 2, 2010 meeting agenda will include a couple of presentations:

Lorii Rabinowitz, 9News Business Development Manager, for the CCDHH's partnership with the station, and

Heidi Streetman, Research Consultant, for a report on disparities of aging services for deaf and hard of hearing people.

The Commission meetings are always open to the public. You are more than welcome to come and be part of the informative sessions.

An Open House to demonstrate the Commission's new offices/space will follow the meeting. Keep your eyes peeled for our flyer regarding our Open House.

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