

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING January 8, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:00pm. Note: I did not include the technology preview that began at 2:30 as part of the regular meeting minutes.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Joe Benedetto (Chair), Debbie Mohny (Vice Chair), Nancy Jean Eubanks, Barbara Jenkins, Jennifer Peterson, Leslie Ralphe, Shelley Strickfaden

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

Cliff Moers, Director, Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager, Tricia Frank, Staff Interpreter

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Kirk Neuroth and Brandon Morgan, Interpreters
Claudette Mondragon, CART Reporter

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

TV and Media Committee report was added to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 16, 2008 Minutes were corrected and approved.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Benedetto

- Commissioner Benedetto extended his thanks to the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services. Commissioner Benedetto also gave thanks to Commissioner Mohny and Mark Valkonen for the demonstration of the assistive listening devices before the meeting.
- Thanks were also offered to DHS Director Karen Beye, Director of Boards and Commissions Mary McGhee, and to Director Cliff Moers and the CCDHH staff.
- Commissioner Benedetto is pleased with the progress and many accomplishments of the Commission over the past 8 years – under the leadership of Director Moers, services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of Colorado have been enhanced and improved.
- It was also reported that according to the Federal Government, we are now officially in a recession. President Elect Obama recently described our economy as “Bad, and Getting Worse” – a description that Commissioner Benedetto feels is accurate. Many states have a significant deficit, including Colorado. Governor Ritter estimates a deficit in Colorado of 200 Million dollars and has taken action through a construction freeze and agency budget cuts. The latter is most impactful for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Commissioner Benedetto shared his experience as a Commissioner for the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf. The Louisiana Commission survived on \$50,000 annually. Eventually the economy improved and the Louisiana Commission now has a fully funded program. He states that there is hope for Colorado and that we must remain committed to the survival of the CCDHH.

Commission Director's Report, Director Moers

A. Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

- Director Moers shared the TEDP report developed by Rob Loveless that highlights overall activity, demographic information and TEDP Objectives and Progress for the period of August to December 2008 – since the program was brought back to the Commission from The Marion Down's Center.
- Director Moers noted that TEDP does distribute Telecommunication equipment as well as accessories such as signalers.
- Director Moers further clarified the report by explaining number of inquiries relates to number of people who contacted the CCDHH needing information or an application. The number of referrals signifies the number of people referred out to

other agencies or resources. Regarding Outreach services, Director Moers is working with Procurement to issue an RFP – there has been some delay in this as the Procurement Director is no longer in that position – Mary McGhee has stepped in to help expedite. A list of items currently available is on the CCDHH website and should be used until new brochures and outreach become accessible.

B. Legal Auxiliary Services

- Cheri Davis is setting up training for interpreters and paying for Interpreters and CART services biweekly.
- The Legal Auxiliary Services Program Advisory Sub-Committee is working on Policies – this will be discussed under NEW BUSINESS.

C. Budget

- Director Moers handed out and reviewed the Budget through November and explained the two Funds: General Fund and Cash Fund and highlighted one correction to the budget regarding the correct appropriation of Rob Loveless' salary from 67 to 66.

D. Strategic Plan

- Director Moers referenced the three year Strategic Plan that was reviewed at the December CCDHH retreat – he asked for two or three commissioners to work with him on expanding information and ideas from this draft.
- Commissioners Eubanks and Strickfaden volunteered to work on the Strategic Plan with Director Moers.

E. Legislative Bill

- Director Moers reported that he feels very optimistic about the CCDHH's Legislative Bill. \$175,000 has been requested. Before the holidays, Director Moers worked with the Legislative Drafter to update and clean language in the bill including TEDP, the reinstatement of a Grant Program, clarification of the role of the Legal Auxiliary Services function as well to request funding for a Legal Auxiliary Scheduler Position and two Technical Assistant Specialist positions.
- Director Moers will keep the Commission updated with the bill's progress.

Overview and solicitation of input on the CQSI application, Presented by Bruce Harrelson, D.O.R.A.

- Bruce Harrelson of DORA is the Director of the Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform. He presented the Overview and solicitation of input on the CQSI application.
- Mr. Harrelson is from the Department of Regulatory Agencies who conducts Sunrise Reviews for the need for new regulation which is required in Colorado when new regulation is imposed on an unregulated profession.

- Mr. Harrelson, along with Sal Larsen explained the criteria and statute used to evaluate a proposal for new regulation.

- Mr. Harrelson reviewed a previous regulation on licensing of interpreters and highlighted the difference between that review and this new proposal for “Title Protection” allowing only qualified interpreters to utilize the established title. Recommendation must be made by March 21.
- Mr. Harrelson asked the Commissioners if this Title Protection would be duplicative of the current reference to the RID link on the CCDHH website – Commissioner Eubanks clarified that correlation with RID membership is not indicative of certification and would, therefore, not be duplicative. Mr. Harrelson further described the pros and cons of Title protection as well as the three levels of state regulation – Licensing, Title Protection and Registration.
- A copy of CQSI’s application will be provided to the Commissioners for reference.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee, Commissioner Benedetto

- There is no new business to report for the Executive Committee

Standing Rules Committee, Commissioner Ralphe

- Commissioner Ralphe gave an update on the Standing Rules Committee – Susan Elliott has been named teacher of the Year and will not officially represent the committee but will support it where possible. Commissioner Benedetto agreed to serve as an ex-officio member and Daniel Curl, past president of CAD and member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. Tricia Frank will also continue to serve on this Committee.
- Commissioner Ralphe informed the CCDHH that the Handbook is currently under revision and will be worked on actively in February and will be sent out to the Commissioners for feedback.

Legislative Committee, Commissioner Strickfaden

- Commissioner Strickfaden referenced Director Moers report regarding the new legislation.
- An update on SB 57 – Hearing Aids for Minors – Commissioner’s personal experience will lead feedback on the implementation of SB 57.
- The Senator who carried SB 57, Senator Kester, is also carrying the CCDHH bill.
- Commissioner Benedetto offered a reminder to look to the 2010 legislation to increase the surcharge on the Disabled Telephone User’s Fund – and to potentially look to include cell phones in addition to land lines to the charge.

Nominations Committee, Commissioner Mohny

- Commissioner Mohny reviewed the purpose of the Nominations Committee – there is no new business at this time.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee, Commissioner Peterson

- Commissioner Peterson reported on her monthly meeting with the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Implementation Team.
- The next steps were outlined and are as follows: Approve the plan as provided, looking for funding (300-500000 for a five-year plan), implementing the plan and hiring a Coordinator position.
- Commissioner Peterson clarified her role as liaison between the CCDHH and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force drivers Ami Garry and Ric Durity.

TEDP Program Committee, Commissioner Mohney

- No new business to report.

Interpreter Committee, Commissioner Eubanks

- Commissioner Eubanks reported that she attended the Symposium on Deafness, Language and Learning and was able to make some good connections.

-Legal Auxiliary Services Program Advisory Sub-Committee, Position Vacant

- The LASC chair, Jennifer Pfau, moved to California. The committee is looking to find a new chair for that position as well as a new Deaf representative. The same procedure for finding the new chair will be followed as it was when the Commission was established.

TV and Media Committee, Commissioner Jenkins

- **As this is a new position for Commissioner Jenkins, there is no new Business to report. However, she did request input from the commissioners on the direction this committee should take.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Plan

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the Mental Health Plan, Commissioner Eubanks seconded and it was moved to vote. The motion carried and the plan is approved.

B. Approval of the Legal Auxiliary Services Program Policies

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Commissioner Mohney requested clarification on the 13 active items and the “parking Lot” items as it relates to the total number of pages. Commissioner Eubanks made a motion to approve the new policies, Commissioner Peterson seconded and discussion followed. Commissioner Mohney requested an amendment to the motion on the floor to only include policies one through thirteen. The policies as amended were moved to vote and the motion carried.

C. Approval of Committee Appointments

Commissioner Ralphe appointed Daniel Curl to the Standing Rules Committee – Commissioner Ralphe moved to approve all newly appointed chair people and Daniel Curl. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mohney, went to vote and carried. The new chairs and member were approved.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Mohney announced the HLAA Walk for Hearing that will be held on Saturday, May 9 in Longmont.

Commissioner Jenkins announced the Tehuacan Project – a short film about a deaf school in Mexico to be released in 2009. She can be contacted for copies of the film.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Strickfaden, Secretary