

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Karen L. Beye
Executive Director

COLRADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING October 16, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:00pm.

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:

Norma Blanke, Darlene Ensenat, Tricia Frank, Rachel Naiman and Jo Wolcott, Interpreters
Claudette Mondragon, CART Reporter

3. ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes were approved.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Benedetto

- Commissioner Benedetto thanked the interpreters, CART reporter, and Commissioners for their dedication. He also thanked the CCDHH staff, Karen Beye and Mary McGhee and the Ritter Administration.
- A new staff member was also announced – Rob Loveless.
- Commissioner Benedetto welcomed three new and one returning Commissioner: Barbara Jenkins, Leslie Ralphe, Jennifer Peterson and Shelley Strickfaden.
- Reminders were given 1. On the CCDHH retreat on December 6th, 2008 and 2. The next Regular CCDHH meeting on January 8, 2009.

Commission Director's Report, Director Moers

- Director Moers welcomed the new commissioners
- A review of the commission's past 8 years and growth since inception was given.
- The economy is in challenging times and a hiring freeze is in place as well as a building, contract and funding freeze – we will need to watch for the outcomes of the next legislative session. Rob Loveless joined the staff before the freeze, and Tricia's position is technically temporary but is in the process of being converted to a permanent status.
- The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task force met on October 15 – a draft of the plan was disseminated but additional changes from the 10/15 meeting have not yet been incorporated. The plan will be discussed at the December Retreat and should be ready for vote at the January regular meeting.

A. Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

- The CCDHH took over the TEDP program from Marion Downs effective September 1, 2008.
- In talking about the freezes currently in place, two contracts with the CCDHH are impacted – both in the TEDP – Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program. One contract is for a telecommunications vendor, and the other is for a TEDP Outreach vendor. The CCDHH will need to wait for the freeze to lift or complete the exception process for the new contract to take place.
- Rob Loveless is the current coordinator with a .5 FTE, Director Moers is working to increase it to a full-time position. Director Moers and Rob are working to create a database of users that will help streamline the process.
- Director Moers clarified the role of the TEDP vendor as the equipment “store” and the outreach services vendor as the person to promote the program and support each customer.

B. Legal Auxiliary Services

- Three items were proposed to the Department of Human Services: 1. Clean up the TEDP statute to provide newer technology such as pagers, 2. Language regarding the CCDHH's role in providing legally qualified interpreters and CART providers for the courts and 3. A community grant program. The department approved all 3 items and the Governor has as well – the next step is to find a sponsor for the bill.
- Director Moers reviewed the budget as supplied and noted that a staff accountant will come to the December retreat to help define and clarify the budget for the Commissioners.
- Director Moers will attend a Hard of Hearing training in New Mexico on behalf of the commission and hopes to learn more about the needs of the Hard of Hearing population and ultimately to create a Hard of Hearing community coordinator/navigator.

Presentation on the ADA Amendments Act, Pat Going, Director of DBTAC

- Pat Going provided an overview of the ADA center as the Senior Advisor. His office is funded by the Department of Education to serve six states. The ADA center is a resource center for all things associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Mr. Going reported on 3 significant things occurring – 1. The American with Disabilities Act Amendments passed on September 25, 2008 that redefines the meaning of the word “disability”. 2. New accessibility standards outlined that address communication issues. 3. The Department of justice is rewriting their regulations implementing this civil rights law – these are publications available on their web site (www.ada.gov) that address the definition of a service animal, ticketing policies, communication devices, etc.
- The key difference to the ADA Amendments is that a person's disability would be determined without the use of Mitigating Measures, such as a hearing aid.
- Communications issues addressed by the amendments include newer technology, stronger language regarding captioning
- Mr. Going offered various resources including a DVD and Emergency Preparedness information.

Presentation on Real-Time Captioning at Invesco Field and the Pepsi Center, Lindsay Condon, Account Executive of Caption Colorado

- Lindsay Condon is the Vice President of Sales for Event centers with Caption Colorado – she came to discuss some of the new technology being used such as wireless captioning to Blackberries, Smart Phones and Mobile devices at event centers. This service is available currently at Invesco Field at Mile High and the Pepsi Center.

- Ms. Condon explained that there will be 5 phones available to use/check out or you may use your own device once you have downloaded the application

and utilize a User Name and Event ID and the device will caption everything said on the PA system at the event. Additionally, the captions will load real-time, but the user may view the transcript if they have missed something that was said.

Committee Chair Reports

Nominations Committee, Commissioner Mohney

- Commissioner Mohney reviewed the three Commission Positions: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary who are elected every two years. The CCDHH needs to nominate these 3 positions for the term ending June 30, 2010.
- Nominations from the Committee are as follows:
 - Chair – Commissioner Benedetto. The nomination was accepted and there were no other recommendations – it went to vote and passed. Congratulations to Commissioner Benedetto were given on this appointment.
 - Vice Chair – Commissioner Mohney. The nomination was accepted and there were no other recommendations and Commissioner Mohney was appointed as Vice Chair.
 - Secretary – Commissioner Strickfaden. The nomination was accepted and there were no other recommendations and Commissioner Strickfaden was appointed as Secretary.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force, Co-chairs Ami Garry and Ric Durity

- Ami Garry reported on the newly drafted Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force and shared the extensive experience from various related fields.
- There are four goals that the Task Force has focused on:
 - 1. Governmental structure - standards that establish a structure for the entire state.
 - 2. Statewide services – services available in all of Colorado that meet the need of the DHH population.
 - 3. Consistency – follow through to move the plan into action.
 - 4. Involve consumers and families – keep the consumers and families involved in the decision making, leadership and governmental aspect of this process.
- The Center for System Integration has been working with the Task Force and will update the changes from the October 15 meeting so that it can be reviewed and moved for a vote in the regular January meeting.

- The Implementation Team will decide who will chair the team and will also reach out to all key players in the state to make them aware of this plan. Two suggestions are to 1. Have a center for technical assistance and education for service providers. 2. Establish a system of networking

TV and Online Media Committee, Chair Loveless

- Director Moers summarized Chair Loveless' report on TV and Online Media. The Committee met and worked on a proposal to Rocky Mountain PBS. Chair Loveless submitted the letter to the president and CEO of RMPBS about what the committee envisions for the future. The most significant piece of the proposal discusses the setup of a channel specifically for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.
- The president/CEO shared this letter with the Colorado Broadcasters Association (CBA) but stepped down from his position. The committee is searching to obtain the new person in his position to continue the conversation.
- Chair Loveless will need to step down from his position as chair due to his duties with the TEDP, though he will still support the committee. Director Moers agreed to forward the proposal sent to RMPBS so that the Commissioners can have a better understanding of what is needed to chair this position.

Standing Rules Committee, Chair Elliott

- As Chair Elliott was not present, staff interpreter Frank was asked to report on Standing Rules. Director Moers suggested that we review the Amendments to the Commission handbook be reviewed at the December retreat.

Finance Committee, Vacancy

- Director Moers covered the Finance in his Budget report.

TEDP Committee, Commissioner Mohney

- Director Moers covered the TEDP status in his report.

Interpreter Committee, Commissioner Eubanks

- Commissioner Eubanks reported that she has been in communication with the community regarding educational interpreting. The feedback has been positive and Kathy Randolph, the IEIS Vice Chair of RID, will be discussing RID at the CRID conference in support of interpreters in educational and instructional settings. She may be available to come to the CCDHH regular January meeting.

Legal Auxiliary Services Program Advisory Sub-Committee, Chair Pfau

- Commissioner Peterson updated the CCDHH on the status of the Legal Auxiliary Services policy development – they have had regular meetings including Lewana, Lorrie Kosinski, Lynda Rimmel and Cheri Davis.

Legislative Committee, Commissioner Strickfaden

- Commissioner Strickfaden shared a FAQ sheet regarding the implementation of SB 57 on hearing aid coverage for minors in Colorado. Some challenges

have popped up with the timing of aid coverage based on insurance type, but these challenges and solutions will become clearer as the law goes into effect on January 1st, 2009. Commissioner Benedetto suggested that the next step should be hearing aid coverage for adults in two years.

- Kris Shipley

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kris Shipley of Sprint Relay and Relay Colorado shared her enthusiasm for working with the TEDP now that it is under the CCDHH. She is available as a resource and looks forward to supporting the program.
- Mark Wedgel came to speak on Deaf-Blind advocacy issues. He is a Commissioner on the Colorado Commission for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired (CCIBVI) - and helps advocate for the need of Deaf-Blind Individuals such as a Support Service Provider (SSP) who provides moment to moment updates to the Deaf-Blind individual about the environment. He wanted to ensure that both the CCDHH and CCIBVI work together in all arenas including TEDP.
- Rebecca Herr spoke on behalf of the Hearing Loss Awareness Project funded by a grant from Boulder County aging services “Aid our Futures”. The Project includes hearing loss awareness workshops, support groups and one-on-one training.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Letter to municipalities regarding Legal Auxiliary Services – Cheri Davis reported on the Legal Auxiliary Services – the current statute does not require municipal courts to hire legally qualified interpreters or CART reporters, so a letter is being developed to send to municipal courts and police stations to encourage them to follow the LAS model.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Jenkins mentioned the Sertoma club – they are looking for groups associated with hearing loss to donate to.

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- Commissioner Strickfaden announced the upcoming Symposium on Deafness Language and Learning in Colorado Springs, and noted that the parent strand has 3 sessions – one of which is a Adult Role model panel if anyone is interested in sitting in on it. Commissioner Strickfaden also offered thanks to those who attended the Hands & Voices Gala on October 4th.
- Cheri Davis announced the former Commissioner Susan Elliott has made the top three for the Colorado Teacher of the Year award. A group was interviewed by the selection committee a week ago and at the November 11 Reception the winner will be announced. Ms. Davis also announced that she will attend the CCRA meeting, which is the Colorado Court Reporter Association.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Strickfaden, Secretary