

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

EMPLOYMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
Jenise May, Deputy Executive Director

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DIVISION
Mary V. McGhee, Director

COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Cliff Moers, Administrator
1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203-1714
Phone 303-866-4824
VP 720-457-3679
FAX 303-866-4831
Email email.ccdhh@state.co.us
www.coloradodeafcommission.com



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Karen L. Beye
Executive Director

COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING March 4, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair Benedetto.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Commissioners Benedetto (Chair), Mohney (Vice Chair), Jenkins, Peterson, Ralphe, and Eubanks.

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Strickfaden

The Chair and Administrator were notified in advance of her absence and granted this commissioner an excuse.

CCDHH Staff Present:

Cliff Moers (Administrator) and Cheri Davis (Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager)

Auxiliary Service Providers:

Interpreters Tricia Frank, Bobbie Ostberg and Richard Blankis
CART provider Claudette Mondragon

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

No minutes to approve. Two sets of minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

5. REPORTS

Chair's Report: Commissioner Benedetto

No report.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Moers

Rules: The TEDP and the Legal Auxiliary Services rules were approved by the State Board of Human Services. Both sets of rules will become effective April 1, 2010. The most significant change in the TEDP rules allows us to now distribute wireless devices. The biggest change in the LAS rules allows us to pay interpreters at the community rate, instead of the legal rate, for court-ordered treatment. The Grant Program rules will be discussed for the second time at the State Board meeting on March 5, 2010. If the rules are adopted at that time, they will become effective May 15, 2010. Advertisements, seeking members of the Grant Program Subcommittee, have been sent out. Five members, including Administrator Moers, will constitute the members of the subcommittee.

TEDP: Rob Loveless is in the process of developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) from companies that sell wireless devices. In response to a question about pushing the legislature to assess the Disabled Telephone Users surcharge on wireless "lines" (or "any future technology") in addition to landlines, it was noted that the push must come from the deaf, hard of hearing and blind communities. If it came from the Commission, it would appear self-serving.

LAS: Cheri Davis has begun scheduling auxiliary services for the 17th Judicial District (Adams County). The position of Legal Auxiliary Services Coordinator, who will schedule the services eventually for the whole state, has been announced.

New Positions: The Auxiliary Services Coordinator position has been announced.

Consumer Advocacy Training: We were asked by Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) to host a 2-day consumer advocacy training in Denver for deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind individuals. The training will focus on statutes and how we can use them to advocate for access to telephones, media and other necessities. We were contacted last week and have already made arrangements to convene the training March 27th and 28th at Red Rocks Community College.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: There is one week left for administrators, insurance companies, service providers, and contracted service providers to respond to the assessment. There has already been tremendous response. The information gathered will assist us in developing curriculum and training for providers.

Community Resource Directory: We have contracted with the same individual who is our web master to develop the online directory. At the same time, we'd like to make improvements to the web site. Please inform us of any changes you would like to see.

DORA Sunset Review: DORA recommended that our next sunset review occur in 5 years. The House has approved this recommendation; the Senate is now in the process of reviewing and approving it.

Drivers License Identification: Cliff is in the process of setting up a meeting with a representative in the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Committee Reports:

Interpreter Committee: Commissioner Eubanks

She sent an email to the Commissioners, and heard back from a few, about the continued lack of communication access for deaf and hard of hearing people in medical settings. She would like to see the Commission be more supportive of improved access.

Mark Valkonen, LASAC Chair: The terms of four LASAC members expire June 30, 2010. The Council is contacting the individuals to determine who wants to continue serving on the Council.

Cheri Davis, LAS Manager: She shared new information with the LASAC members; that the Council no longer has policy-making authority. The policies that have been passed cannot be enforced. In order to have any strength, they need to be put into a state price agreement. The three new directions of the LAS are recruitment and training of more CART providers, the use of remote technology with interpreters and CART providers, and the recruitment and training of more deaf interpreters. She presented to the Child Welfare Division because she has been hearing from more and more individuals that they are not receiving communication access in settings, other than the courts, related to child welfare cases.

Daylight Project: Mary Sterritt, Project Coordinator

The project was established because of the ongoing disparities of access to behavioral health care and substance abuse services for deaf and hard of hearing residents. The project's first task was to determine what the need for access to service is. Out of an estimated 400,000 deaf and hard of hearing Colorado residents, only 733 deaf Coloradoans received mental health services last year (hard of hearing people are currently not documented in the system). The need was determined to be great. Next, the project established 7 components critical to building a sustainable service model: 1) the assessment of training and technology needs, 2) the implementation and support of the use of technology, 3) the provision of training and technological assistance, 4) the provision of culturally and linguistically accessible services, 5) the development and adoption of guidelines of care developed with consumer and family leadership, 6) plan for sustainability, and 7) evaluate our project implementation.

Because there are representatives from many different agencies on the project, it shows strong community support for this program.

The assessment survey (component #1) will close next week. It focuses on service delivery strategies and asks respondents to answer questions such as: how many deaf and hard of hearing people have you served; are you and your staff culturally and linguistically competent; and in your cultural competency training, do you include a module related to serving deaf and hard of hearing people. The data will inform the project about what is out there, and what training and assistance service agencies need.

The project is developing tele-behavioral health so that appropriate services can be provided to a distant agency that needs them.

Through the project's consumer and family leadership group, they are looking for individuals who are interested in receiving training to become an advocate within the mental health and substance abuse system.

Bylaws Committee: Commissioner Ralphe

The committee has been working with Administrator Moers, providing suggestions for the Grant Program Rules.

The recently approved Commissioners' Handbook is being distributed today. Some of the books still need the divider tabs; they will be distributed at the next meeting. Thanks to all who contributed to it, especially Tricia who did an incredible amount of the writing.

Legislative Committee: Chair Joe Benedetto for Commissioner Strickfaden

Chair Benedetto wants one of the committee's long-term goals to be to coordinate and collaborate with deaf and hard of hearing organizations in an attempt to impose the TRS surcharge on cell phones.

Nominations Committee: Commissioner Mohney

The applications deadline for open Commission positions was January 15th. The committee met to interview the applicants and its recommendations will be sent to the Department of Human Services who then forward them to the Governor's office.

TEDP Committee: Commissioner Mohney

The rules have been clarified grammatically and the ability to distribute wireless devices has been added.

Media Access Committee: Commissioner Jenkins

The committee met twice recently with the director of NBC news in Colorado. They worked with the Colorado Commission on Aging and have a program called Senior Source. We hope to emulate that program. Go to 9News.com and click on 'Senior Source' to see what it looks like. We also hope to have a site on our web page that has information about programs for the deaf and hard of hearing and TV streaming. 9News has also proposed helping us create a half-hour program for the deaf and hard of hearing communities that will run once a month. This program will be accessible to everyone; it will be conducted in sign language and will be captioned. For those who miss the program when it runs on TV, they can watch it on our web site. The programming content that will be aired will be determined by the Commission and members appointed by the Commission. They are willing to work with Rocky Mountain PBS since we told them about our talks with them. 9News will help us with finding funding for this effort as well. If we truly want to commit to airing a 30-minute program once a month, we will need to find a position within the Commission or a committee to make sure the content gets to 9News monthly and that communication access happens between signing and non-signing people.

9News has already reserved the first Saturday of every month at 8:00 am for us. Now the committee needs ideas of topics to air and at least two people committed to coordinating the production. Two groups, the Ohio Center for Broadcasting and the University of Denver School of Media, are vying to be the producers.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee: Commissioner Peterson

Nothing to add to Mary Sterritt's report presented earlier.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mutzi Brown shared her thoughts about people in the deaf and hard of hearing communities not getting involved in advocating for and making changes in their lives. She questioned how we can motivate them. Chair Benedetto replied that her question is the "\$64,000" question.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Title Protection for Interpreters FAQ's: Administrator Moers

CQSI, a Colorado Association of the Deaf committee, approached CCDHH with some FAQ's and asked for our feedback. We revised the FAQ's and when we presented them to Mary McGhee, she felt they are not our responsibility to develop. Authority of this new statute falls to the Attorney General so it is that office's responsibility to develop any FAQ's. The Commission staff will set a meeting with the AG's office to work on the FAQ's.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember to look for the announcement about the TDI Consumer Advocacy Training which will be held the last weekend in March.

Administrator Moers congratulated Commissioner Jenkins on her recent engagement!

Commissioner Mohney announced the Walk-4-Hearing, which is a fundraiser for Hearing Loss Association of America. The funds raised here are split 50-50 between the national organization and the Colorado chapter. The walk will occur on Saturday, May 22nd at Clement Park in Littleton. Go to www.walk4hearing.org for more information.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jenkins, Acting Secretary