

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
December 3, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:04pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Deacon Joe Benedetto (Chair), Debbie Mohney (Vice Chair), Shelley Strickfaden (Secretary), Nancy Jean Eubanks, Leslie Ralphe, Jennifer Peterson (Administrator Moers noted that she will arrive late).

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

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

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Danelle Jansen and Mindi Hess, Interpreters
Claudette Mondragon, CART Reporter

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

September 3rd, 2009 minutes were approved without correction.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Benedetto

- Chair Benedetto extended his thanks to the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services.
- Thanks were also offered to the Colorado Department of Human services, CCDHH staff and each member and chair of the CCDHH.
- The scheduled Telephone Technology will not occur today due to the illness of the presenter, Glen Garner.
- Chair Benedetto noted that he had a lengthy chair report and opted to hand out copies for review and questions. Hearing no objections, the reports were disseminated and reviewed.
- Chair Benedetto mentioned that this will be his last year in the CCDHH after 10 years of service and had special thanks for those who had supported him over the years including Archbishop Chaput, his family, the PUC, Susan Elliott, legislative supporters, our Governors, Karen Beye, Jenise May, Mary Mc Ghee and Administrator Moers.
- Chair Benedetto also reviewed the history of CCDHH included the following to date:
 - In the year 2000 there was no Staff, Director or Programs.
 - Susan Elliott was the first Commission chair.
 - Created the Commission Standing Rules, Manual and Handbook.
 - Hired first Director, BJ Woods.
 - Wrote the Commission Agenda for the Future.
 - Established Telecommunications Equipments Distribution Program (TEDP) and adopted rules for the program.
 - Transferred legal services from Vocational Rehabilitation to the Commission and established the Legal Auxiliary Services program and created rules for the program.
 - Established a grant program to assist the non-profit community organizations and rules to follow.
 - Established new and improved funding mechanisms for CCDHH needs and increased the budget this FY to over one million dollars.
 - Grew the staff to seven from zero in 2000.
 - Established a statewide task force on Mental Health and substance abuse professionals and wrote the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Plan.
 - Recently awarded a 500,000 grant for the Colorado Department of Human Services for Mental Health and Substance abuse services.
 - Received the Sunset Review approval from the Department of Regulatory Agencies to continue the Commission for 5 more years.

- Chair Benedetto reiterated our successes in the past 10 years, and noted that the looming Poundstone Initiative, led by Freda Poundstone, would provide for a series of measures that would cut and or freeze state and local taxes, surcharges and fees.
- The CCDHH next step is to collaborate with the CCDHH Administrator, Colorado Department of Human Services, our friends in the legislature, and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities to defend and maintain our existing level of services and programs.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Moers

Administrator Moers asked if the CCDHH had noticed the new CCDHH display. There are two new displays. It was originally thought that the display should have been of Aspen trees as they all work together to form a system to benefit the whole but the ceiling was too low for the display. Thus what you see is our main and large display. It represents a vision we all share together.

A. Rules and Rule-Making Deadlines

- The CCDHH has a deadline for the creation of new rules by the CDHS.
- Administrator Moers handed out the list of Deadlines:
 - 11/25/2009 is the first deadline – this is the date that the rules need to be submitted to the Office of Employment and Regulatory Affairs, where the Division of Boards and Commissions is housed, for the deputy director's signature.
 - 12/16/2009 the authorization of rules and ability to discuss changes
 - 01/08/2010 is the first state review hearing
 - 02/05/2010 is the second state review hearing
 - 04/01/2010 is the date most rules are effective

B. Budget

- The budget was disseminated and Administrator Moers asked if there were questions on the budget – none were raised at that time.

C. Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

- Coordinator Loveless reported on the TEDP and noted that wireless devices for possible distribution in the future are being investigated. Of the 32 known programs, many do request a credit check. The CCDHH is hoping to be able to ensure that.
- TTYs are no longer popular, more CapTels are distributed to the hard of hearing individuals. The CCDHH had to request more CapTels from the supplier but have to execute the new contract.
- Commissioner Jenkins asked if there was a list of available technology and Coordinator Loveless affirmed that it can be either requested or can be found on the CCDHH website.

D. Legal Auxiliary Services

- Ms. Davis noted that she has been working with DOVE and have started having workshops called Coffee Conversation. Two of these workshops have occurred at Starbucks. The participants are able to learn about what the LAS does and helps it to spread the word about LAS services.
- The LAS committee will continue the workshops and are open to more topics.
- LAS is starting to use mobile CART. This is spreading to more rural areas. There are some challenges that they are understating and working on. One of the main goals is to recruit more skilled CART reporters.
- Starting to use VRI – Video Remote Interpreting which has been both successful and cost effective. Ms. Davis noted that they are hoping to do more of this.
- Ms. Davis noted that they are also starting to work of Mental Health and Substance abuse and mental health and substance abuse providers to offer these services.
- Ms. Davis noted that they will pilot the remote auxiliary services with Judicial District 1. They are working to retrain the judicial groups to better understand the needs of interpreting as generally the rules and offering for spoken language interpreting are limited.
- Budget-wise the LAS is on track and will stay within budget. Chair Benedetto noted thanks for Ms. Davis' hard work and shared a recent jury duty service experience and the success of the staff and provision of the interpreter.
- Ms. Davis also noted the need for experienced CART reports with awareness of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Committee Chair Reports

Executive Committee, Commissioner Benedetto

- There is no new business.

Interpreting Committee, Commissioner Eubanks

- Commissioner Eubanks discussed the Title Protection Bill.

A. Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Sub-Committee, Chair Valkonen

- Chair Valkonen noted his thanks to Deacon Benedetto and that he will be missed.
- It was also noted that some of the members' term will expire on June 30, 2010. They will have to be replaced.

Standing Rules Committee/Bylaws Committee, Commissioner Ralphe

- Commissioner Ralphe reported that the Bylaws committee met again and have come up with a draft of the CCDHH handbook
- Commissioner Ralphe

Legislative Committee, Commissioner Strickfaden

- Commissioner Strickfaden noted that although there is no new business, the Poundstone Initiative is very concerning and is looking forward to keeping a close eye on its progress and defending our position.
- A new Bill – House Bill 1094 came into Law on December 1st that disallows texting while driving for driver's over the age of 18. Previously the law only affected drivers under age 18. In order to issue a ticket, the police must see the driver texting and driving. Tickets will be issued up to \$100.

Nominations Committee, Commissioner Mohney

- Commissioner Mohney reported that there are three Commission positions ending in 2010 – the Deaf representative currently held by Commissioner Benedetto who will not reapply, the Hard of Hearing Position currently held by Commissioner Mohney, and the Interpreter Position currently held by Commissioner Eubanks.

TEDP Program Committee, Commissioner Mohney

- Commissioner Mohney referenced Rob Loveless' wonderful report and is looking forward to seeing how the new wireless technology is distributed and accepted in the community.

Media Access Committee, Commissioner Jenkins

- Commissioner Jenkins noted that the Media Access Committee, Commissioner Jenkins and Administrator Moers met with the Rocky Mountain PBS people to see how they can best help serve the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- The hope would be that RMPBS could provide television services and look forward to meeting with the CCDHH.
- The next meeting with RMPBS will be held again in the near future and the goal is to have more information by mid January – this collaboration with the State, the CCDHH, and the media RMPBS would be a first in the US.
- Administrator Moers will have a call with RMPBS December 4th regarding pricing.
- Interstitials – similar to what we call commercials on regular networks. Interstitials are announcements of some sort as they are a non-profit they cannot advertise commercially. If the funding is present, the CCDHH will work with and require help with, production.
- RMPBS is accessible in every part of the state of Colorado – the exception is that the service may be varied depending on service provider such as cable and channels.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee, Commissioner Peterson

- Commissioner Peterson reported that in the Mental Health and Substance abuse committee meetings Administrator Moers has been very involved.
- A new Administrator has been hired by the name of Mary Sterritt

- Administrator Moers referenced the Organizational chart that was distributed. He also mentioned the monthly report that summarized the components of the MH/SA plan.
- There are 7 components listed on the chart
 1. Assessment Work group - Want to start by taking the pulse of the service providers, etc and to see how much knowledge they have about the DHH clients
 2. Standards and Policy Work Group
 3. Consumer and Family Work Group
 4. Technology Work Group
 5. Training Work Group – Mary Sterritt will be responsible for training – the Committee will training the “adopters” – the first providers
 6. Evaluation work Group
 7. The Core Team and Sustainability Work Group
- The Grant for this program was approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kanene Knox (Knox.Kanene@yahoo.com) reported as public comment to discuss an id of hearing loss or communication mode on driver's license there are some copies of visor cards available and Commissioner Mohney and Strickfaden will provide the copies to Administrator Moers.
- Terri Rose – had a question about the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the new Title Protection and the Resource Directory – when will they be developed and where will they be posted - Commissioner Eubanks noted that the FAQ, while it does not have a due date but will be posted on the CCDHH website. Administrator Moers said that the Resource Directory will also be posted on the website by March 1st. The Community will have the ability to update their own contact information live.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the Commission Handbook** – with no additional discussion the vote was cast and carried – the Commission Handbook is approved.
- B Approval of the Legal Auxiliary Services Policies**– with no additional discussion the vote was cast and carried – the Legal Auxiliary Services Policies is approved.
- C. Approval of the Grant Program Rules** - with no additional discussion the vote was cast and carried – the Grant Program Rules are approved.
- D. Agreement to Clarification of the Commission Name** – Administrator Moers mentioned that there are two different options – it is currently “Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing” – the change could be “Colorado Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing”, “Colorado Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing”. The importance of the name change is that the Sunset Review will be the best opportunity to make the change and have it changed. With no additional discussion the vote was cast

and carried – the change of the name to “Colorado Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing” is approved.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Mohney announced that HLAA – Hearing Loss Association of America Colorado Chapter will have the 4th annual walk in March at Clement Park in Littleton.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Strickfaden, Secretary