



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin August 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.

Another New Face at the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Commission has completed its hiring of new positions by filling the 3rd and final vacancy with Namati Katungu, the new Education and Training Specialist for the hard of hearing-related issues and needs. A wise person once said, "In every heart there has been deposited the seed of a great future, but the seed will never germinate, much less grow to maturity, except through rendering of useful services". With this said, in an effort to render more useful services, and contribute to the well-being of the community, Namati comes well prepared to provide statewide outreach services and training to empower consumers, and educate the government agencies, communities, and private entities that provide services to the hard of hearing and late-deafened community. He brings to the Commission an extensive educational background along with professional experiences in education, administration and business entrepreneurship. During his free time he continues to contribute to the well being of the community by utilizing his real estate services, while he strives to contribute to the mission of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. See the Education and Training Program section below for further information regarding his job.

Please welcome him aboard!

Legal Auxiliary Services

A lot of exciting news this month from Legal Auxiliary Services! The staff, Cheri and Carmena, have been busy putting together a transition plan to take over scheduling of auxiliary services for State courts, administrative proceedings, and court ordered services. The presentation and demonstration of the scheduling software given to judicial district representatives was met with great enthusiasm. Judicial districts are eager to have CCDHH take over this responsibility and staff looks forward to working closely with this group during the transition.

Cheri also visited several rural courthouses to explore the option of using video technology to improve provision of services, especially in areas where there are no local qualified services. She was pleasantly surprised to find that many of rural courthouses already have webcams available and that there are plans to equip many more. With this technology, CCDHH would be able provide video remote interpreting by sending qualified service providers to a local “call center” site.

Education and Training Program

The newly established Systems Navigator Program, also called the Education and Training Program, has experienced a productive two months. The program is growing each day with communities becoming more and more aware of the program.

A lot of focus has been directed toward resource directory development, which enables the program to better respond to the variety of inquiries received by the Commission. These inquiries range from individuals, businesses, and government agencies seeking information on auxiliary services (interpreting/CART providers), accessibility-related issues and the laws that enforce them, American Sign Language class offerings, cultural sensitivity, and various services available to the deaf and hard of hearing across the state.

The Education and Training Program has been collaborating with the Colorado Department of Corrections to ensure access to services for deaf and hard of hearing inmates. An initial meeting with the Department of Corrections ADA Coordinator and her staff recently took place and a plan to advance access to services will be developed shortly after a face-to-face meeting with inmates is held.

The media studio is currently under construction. The program intends to use it as an educational tool to increase public awareness of the linguistic and cultural uniqueness of the deaf and hard of hearing community. This project will include formation of awareness-promoting video logs with voice-over translations and captions on the Commission website and creating televised advertisements with local television stations.

Advancing access to state agencies and community-based organizations/services for the deaf and hard of hearing will remain the primary focus of the program.

The CCDHH Education and Training Program welcomes your comments, concerns, and ideas! Contact Rob Loveless at rob.loveless@state.co.us or 720-235-0062 (VP/voice) and Namati Katungu for hard of hearing-related issues at namati.katungu@state.co.us or 720-949-7482 (VP/voice).

Meeting/Open House

The Commission’s next quarterly meeting will be held from **2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2010**, at:

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

A report on disparities of aging services, including elder care center, for the deaf and hard of hearing by Heidi Streetman, research consultant is on the agenda. Come and learn what recommendations she will make!

Our **Open House** to demonstrate the Commission's new offices/space will follow the meeting. Refreshments and drinks will be served as well.

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