



## **Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Monthly Bulletin December 2008**

### ***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.

### **Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP)**

The TEDP has added a printable application form along with the equipment selection form to the Commission website. Please visit our Program on the TEDP page of the Services Tab on: [www.coloradodeafcommission.com](http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com).

The Program is also in the process of installing an on-line application for consumers. Efficiency of the Program is of the Commission's ultimate goal. Keep your eye open for this feature!

Again, the contact information for our Program is as follows:

303-866-2097 (Voice)  
303-866-2098 (TTY)  
720-457-3679 (VP)  
303-866-4831 (Fax)  
[tedp.ccdhh@state.co.us](mailto:tedp.ccdhh@state.co.us) (E-mail)

Please note a change in the VP number and e-mail address.

### **Legal Auxiliary Services Program**

Communication Access Real-Time (CART) is available! CART is available for those of you who find yourselves needing communication access, in a mode other than sign language, for legal settings in the Colorado State Courts (this does not include municipal courts). This accommodation is available through the Commission Legal Auxiliary Services Program. Efforts are being made to recruit and train more CART providers so they are ready to fill any

requests that are made. If you need or prefer CART as an accommodation, please make the request through the court clerk as soon as possible. For questions, please contact Cheri Davis, the Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager, at 303-866-4734 (TTY), 303-866-4824 (voice), 720-457-3679 (VP), or [cheri.davis@state.co.us](mailto:cheri.davis@state.co.us).

### **Vacancy on the Legal Auxiliary Services Program Advisory Committee**

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) is seeking a qualified deaf applicant to serve on the Advisory Council for the Legal Auxiliary Services Program for a term that expires October 31, 2010.

A full description of the council is below. All interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and resume **by January 30, 2009** to:

Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager  
1575 Sherman St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80203  
Fax 303-866-4831  
[cheri.davis@state.co.us](mailto:cheri.davis@state.co.us)

#### ***Description of Advisory Council:***

I. **Purpose** – to advise the CCDHH in matters pertinent to the provision of quality auxiliary services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals in legal matters as set forth by 13-90-(201–210) C.R.S.

II. **Authority** – will report directly to the Commission via the Commission's liaison and a CCDHH staff person.

(Currently: Nancy Jean Eubanks, Commission Interpreter Representative and Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Program Manager)

III. **Members** –(2) Deaf, (2) Hard of Hearing, (3) Legal Qualified or Certified Interpreters (at least one CDI/DI, if possible), 1 CART Provider, and 1 person with Disability Law background, to serve a term of 4 years. Appointment will be made by the Commissioners.

IV. **Duties and Responsibilities** – will meet a minimum of 2 times per year to discuss and make recommendations regarding any or all items below as deemed necessary by the Commission.

1. **Regulations:** To be reviewed at the beginning of each fiscal year for the first 3 years.

2. **Topics:**

- Rates of pay for legal auxiliary service providers.
- Travel payment policy.
- Cancellation policy.
- Qualifications for legal service providers. (re: certification, licensing)
- Grievance procedures.
- Scheduling issues.
- Recruitment and expansion of pool of legal service providers.
- Legal workshops and trainings.

- Training needs of consumers, court and law enforcement personnel.
- Unique issues in rural areas of the state (re: Western Slope).
- Use of remote and assistive technologies.

Other miscellaneous issues related to this program as deemed necessary by CCDHH.

### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force**

It is official! The Commission Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) Implementation Team was formed. The Task Force was disbanded after they last met in October. The final meeting was held to gather the members' feedback on the draft plan. The momentum is still going!

The steering team of the MHSA Task Force had identified 11 potential members of the Implementation Team. The steering team saw them as key players in this process -- the ones that will be in charge of overseeing and supporting the implementation of the Commission MHSA Action Plan, including a plan for information sharing and a dissemination of the Action Plan -- and to represent their groups of people or organizations. Those individuals that were identified for the Team and were confirmed are as follows:

- Cliff Moers, Director of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Ric Durity of the Mental Health Center of Denver
- Ami Garry of Dove, advocacy services for deaf and hard of hearing women and children
- Rebecca Herr of the Colorado Hearing Loss Association of America
- Candice Tate of Purple Monarch, a private practice
- Laura Douglas of Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Pat Doyle of the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
- Carmelita Muniz of the Colorado Association of Alcohol and Drug Services Providers
- Jagruti Shah of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Angelia Lawson of the Division of Behavioral Health (Department of Human Services)
- Jennifer Peterson of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Commissioner)

The Implementation Team will include another person who will represent parents.

The Team will work with commitment to the Action Plan. The Team will meet on a monthly basis for the time being and the meetings will be action driven. One of the Team's immediate priorities is to secure funding for its work.

The documents such as Action Plan, Team meeting minutes, and updates will be posted on the Commission website shortly. Please contact the Commission should you need additional information or have questions.

**Accommodation for the State-of-the-State Speech Available!**

Interpreting and Communication-assisted Real-time Translation (CART) services will be provided during Governor Ritter's State-of-the-State speech at **11:00 a.m.** at the Capitol on **Thursday, January 8, 2009**. It will be held in the House Chamber on second (2<sup>nd</sup>) floor. Address: 200 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80203.

**Susan Elliott, 2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year!!**

Heartfelt Congratulations goes to Susan Elliott, a former Commissioner and first Chair of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for being recognized as the 2009 Colorado Teacher of the Year!! Ms. Elliott is in a competition for the National teacher of the Year sponsored by the Council of Chief State Council Officers and the ING Foundation. The Commissioners, the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Department of Human Services wish her the best while she goes on a busy schedule of programs and activities, including a visit to the White House in Washington, D.C., during the year. Susan teaches deaf and hard of hearing students in the Douglas County School District.

**Commission Meeting**

Mark your calendar with the next Commission quarterly meeting! It will be held from **3:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm.** on **Thursday, January 8, 2008** at:

Colorado Department of Human Services  
1575 Sherman Street, Garden Level Conference Room  
Denver, CO 80203

The agenda items include program updates, a summary of the Commission bill in the coming legislative session a discussion regarding Colorado Association of the Deaf's Colorado Quality Standards for the Interpreters Committee application with the Department of Regulatory Agencies (the CQSI committee requested a title protection for interpreters by the state), endorsement of the Commission Mental Health and Substance Abuse Action Plan, and other issues.

Come and visit with us!

**The Commissioners and the staff of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!**

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