



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

Rules

Three sets of the Commission program rules were approved by the State Board of the Department of Human Services! These are the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, Legal Auxiliary Services, and Grant Program rules. Revisions to these rules except Grant Program's are mostly technical clean up due to passage of the Senate Bill 144, concerning the Commission programs.

Changes to the rules will enable the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program to distribute wireless devices to qualifying consumers and the Legal Auxiliary Services to utilize certified community interpreters and CART providers for court ordered treatment and classes.

The Commission has promulgated rules for the Grant Program as mandated by the State Legislature. Rules were needed to provide the Grant Program Subcommittee guidelines for annual distribution of \$50,000 in varying amounts to the defined entities and for the Commission to administer the program. Keep your eyes peeled for our Grant Program application form next month!

If you wish to obtain a copy of a program rules, please contact the Commission with your request.

Vacant Grant Program Subcommittee Positions

The Commission is seeking at least four (4) independent, enthusiastic and committed candidates for the following Grant Program Subcommittee positions:

1. one (1) person who has knowledge and awareness of the issues faced by deaf persons,

2. one (1) person who has knowledge and awareness of the issues by hard of hearing, and
3. two (2) representatives from the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The Administrator of the Commission will serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The appointed members of the Subcommittee shall serve three-year terms except that, of the members first appointed, one of the members shall serve a two-year term and two of the members shall serve one-year terms. The Commission shall choose those members who shall serve the initial shortened terms.

Members of the Subcommittee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed out of available appropriations for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Subcommittee may meet via telecommunications when necessary.

The Subcommittee shall meet at least twice a year to review all grant applications received and review the applications. Based on criteria (as outlined in the rules) established by the Commission, the Subcommittee will make recommendations to the Commission those applications to approve, with recommended grant amounts, and those to disapprove.

The positions are open to Colorado residents.

Please send your letter of interest and resume to the Commission offices if you are interested in serving on the Grant Program Subcommittee as soon as possible.

Your interest in serving on the Subcommittee would be greatly appreciated!

Mental Health & Substance Abuse System-level Advocacy

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Mental Health Center of Denver are pleased to announce that Mary Sterritt, MSW, LCSW has joined the Daylight Project as the Project Coordinator.

Mary has been with the Mental Health Center of Denver as a therapist in the Deaf Counseling Services program for 15 years. Her 30 years of experience in mental health and provision of services to deaf and hard of hearing consumers and their families will make a positive contribution to the project. She has a B.S. in Deaf Education & Psychology and a Masters in Social Work. She has extensive experience providing services to deaf and hard of hearing children, families, and adults in residential, mainstream and Bicultural/Bilingual schools, community mental health centers, in-patient psychiatric, and other settings. She has worked with consumers with additional needs related to special education, developmental disabilities and/or substance abuse. Mary has worked with deaf, hard of hearing and late-deafened consumers with diverse cultural and language backgrounds. Her experience also includes participating in collaborative efforts to build mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing, leading and managing grant projects, supervising staff, working with state and local agencies, consulting with school staff, providing trainings, serving as a field supervisor for graduate students and advocating for consumers. She is a key contributor to a paper published

by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network on addressing the treatment needs of deaf and hard of hearing children.

The Commission Implementation Team as well as Mental Health Center of Denver, who is acting as the fiscal agent for the Daylight Project, is pleased to have a coordinator of her caliber aboard. Mary has been hard at work since she started in November 2010! Please welcome her. She can be reached at mary.sterritt@mhcd.org, 720-949-7484 (VP) or 303-504-6521 (voice).

See <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/advocacy/mhsa.aspx> for more information about our mental health and substance abuse system-level advocacy.

Legislative Hearing on the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee is planning to hold a hearing on the Department of Regulatory Agencies' (DORA) Sunset Review bill of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, House Bill 10-1255, at **1:30 pm on Thursday, March 18, 2010.**

Based on the Sunset Review, legislation is being considered to extend the Commission for another five years ending June 30, 2015. The original statute in 2000 required a 10-year Sunset Review, a normal accountability procedure for new government agencies. The House has passed the bill.

See <http://www.dora.state.co.us/opr/archive/2009CommissionforDeaf.pdf> for a copy of the of DORA's report. This report was conducted by DORA's Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform.

The hearing will be held at: State Capitol
201 E. Colfax Avenue
SCR 356 (3rd Floor)
Denver, CO 80203

You are encouraged to come and provide your support! Auxiliary services will be provided.

Job Announcement: Auxiliary Services Coordinator

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, through the Human Resources Office, has been soliciting candidates for the newly created position, Auxiliary Services Coordinator.

For more information or forms, please see:

<http://www.gssa.state.co.us/announce/Job%20Announcements.nsf/54c67aad0c28fbac87257448005063b7/ec660717ba61de8d872576d9005e7bc3?OpenDocument>.

Please note that the position is a .8 FTE (32 hours per week) and the salary indicated on the announcement is for a full-time position (40 hours a week). The deadline to submit your application is **Monday, March 15, 2010**. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply asap.

TDI Consumer Advocacy Training

By TDI eNotes, March 4, 2010

Contact Information:

- * Claude L. Stout (TDI): execdir@tdi-online.org
- * Ann Bardsley (Sorenson Communications): abardsley@sorenson.com
- * Cliff Moers (CCDHH): cliff.moers@state.co.us

TDI SELECTS DENVER AS SITE OF TWO-DAY CONSUMER ADVOCACY TRAINING SEMINAR ON MARCH 27 and 28, 2010

(Silver Spring, Maryland.) March 4, 2010 - TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) announces the selection of Denver, Colorado as the site of the next Consumer Advocacy Training Seminars for Access to Telecommunications, Media, and Information Technology. Thanks to the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, this seminar takes place in TDI's Central Region on March 27 and 28, 2010 at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado. Sorenson Communications is the exclusive sponsor for this seminar.

"Participants will receive immediate benefits from attending this seminar", says Claude Stout, TDI Executive Director. Stout added, "Experienced instructors will share their successful strategies as consumer advocates in dealing with government regulators and industry professionals. This one-of-a-kind training will focus on improving access to telecommunications and information - things we use every day."

Paul Kershisnik, Chief Marketing Officer at Sorenson Communications adds, "Sorenson Communications is proud to sponsor this comprehensive advocacy training program. TDI is an excellent source of knowledge in this area and the seminars provide consumers with vital information and strategic ideas that empower them to move forward effectively in their advocacy efforts. As participants grow in their ability to be positive and effective agents for change, not only are benefits realized locally, but the impact extends to the relay industry and beyond."

Each seminar will begin with an overview of how consumers can change the world they live in through advocacy and generate clout as a dynamic demographic group. Empowered with the knowledge of applicable legislation attendees will be shown techniques used by national organizations to work with industry as well as local and state governments. Participants will learn about the best practices of networking with community-based organizations and state agencies while they get a glimpse of upcoming technologies.

Graduates of the two-day seminar will take home the skills and knowledge needed to mount an effective advocacy campaign. They will learn how to mobilize friends in their communities to

generate new access with technologies such as adding videophones or assistive listening systems in public places, or getting their local TV newscasters to implement or increase real-time captioning. They will learn to use the power of the web and social media to spread the word using traditional channels among their neighbors and beyond.

Those who qualify for TDI's training program are consumers who are or will be active, contributing leaders for their respective communities, be they deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind. We are also open to admitting parents and service professionals who are very much interested to advocate for their children or clients that have hearing loss, or a combination of hearing and vision loss.

The Consumer Advocacy Training Seminar will be held at:

Red Rocks Community College
13300 W. 6th Avenue, Room #2301
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Deadline for Applications: **Monday, March 15, 2010**

Seating is limited to approximately 25 to 30 participants and registration is required. Applications for the TDI Central Region seminar can be downloaded at www.tdi-online.org/pdfs/CAT_applicationCO.pdf. Candidates for the seminar will need to be from the following states in the region: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. Qualified applicants will be selected based on background and responses to the questionnaire.

TDI deeply appreciates having facility and logistical support for this Central regional seminar from co-host, Cliff Moers at Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Red Rocks Community College. Sign language interpreters and CART will be provided while tactile/close vision interpreters will be provided upon request at time of application. Since this is a regional seminar, meals will be provided, but other travel expenses will not be reimbursed.

Mail the completed applications to:

TDI Consumer Advocacy Training Seminar
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 604
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3803

Or you may fax the application to the TDI Consumer Advocacy Training Seminar at 301-589-3797.

This Consumer Advocacy Training Program is provided by TDI with grateful acknowledgment of the financial support by Sorenson Communications (www.sorenson.com)

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

The new edition of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) Blue Guide is here! This past summer, CCHI revised and updated their guide to services for under- and uninsured persons in Colorado. The guide, officially titled "Connecting Care and Health in Colorado: A Guide to Services for the Uninsured," is a user-friendly resource book designed to help consumers navigate the complex maze of health and human service programs in Colorado, identify public programs that consumers may be eligible for, and locate safety net programs and resources throughout the state. This guide may be useful to those working on systems change by making clear how Colorado's health safety net systems work. CCHI also provides free trainings on how to use the guide.

For more information about trainings, or to get a copy of the new Blue Guide, please email Chloe Benson at chloe@cohealthinitiative.org or call at 303-839-1261. Please include your name, mailing address, and the number of copies you would like.

Commission Meeting

The Commission's next quarterly meeting will be held from **2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2010**, at:

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

Refreshments and drinks will be served.

Come and visit us!

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St., 2nd Floor
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-4734 (TTY)
720-457-3679 (VP/voice)
1-866-824-7645 (VP/voice)
303-866-4824 (voice)
303-866-4831 (Fax)
email.ccdhh@state.co.us
www.coloradodeafcommission.com