



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin November 2009

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.

Community Resource Directory

Work is underway to set up an online community resource directory where individuals will be able to input their own information as well as print the directory in a PDF format from the Commission website. The online directory will consist of both: a "straight-forward A-to-Z format with ample cross-references and a directory with categories in alphabetical order. The Commission is targeting completion of this project by March 1, 2010.

Please go to <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/resources/default.aspx> for a form to fill out if you want your organization to be included. The Commission resource directory will list only those who are accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing or are "deaf and hard of hearing friendly."

Mail your contact form to the Commission at: 1575 Sherman St., 2nd Floor, Denver, CO 80203 or fax it to 303-866-4831.

Please e-mail email.ccdhh@state.co.us if you have questions or need more information.

About Legal Auxiliary Services

A presentation was done for the Sex Offender Unit of the Colorado Department of Corrections, in Colorado Springs. This group consists of police, probation and parole officers, attorneys and other service providers who work in this area of law enforcement. It was a very productive presentation as this group represents many different levels of contact with deaf and hard of hearing citizens, from victims to defendants to family members. The hope is that the people present will all go back to their units and "spread the word" about our resources and we will be invited to provide more outreach and training through these contacts.

The scheduling software system was demoed for the Judicial ADA Advisory committee. The Legal Auxiliary Services will start to take over the scheduling of services with a "pilot" in the next few months. The staff is working closely with the State Judicial ADA Coordinator, Janel Bravo, to make sure that this system will integrate with their new online "E-Court" ADA request system. The software received many positive comments from the group.

The staff attended the September Judicial Conference and is attending meetings for the 2010 Colorado Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Conference Planning Committee. The goal for the future is to partner with these two organizations to have legal workshops and CEU opportunities annually at these events.

Grant Program Update

The Commission has promulgated rules for the Grant Program as mandated by the State Legislature. Rules are needed for the Commission to administer the program and to provide guidelines to the Grant Program Committee for the annual distribution of \$50,000 in varying amounts to the defined entities. The Commission's Bylaws Committee has reviewed the rules and referred the rules to the Commissioners for approval. The State Board of the Department of Human Services will adopt these rules. These rules are anticipated to become effective April 1, 2010 if all goes well.

In the meantime, the Commission would like to form the Grant Program Committee consisting of five members, for the purpose of recommending to the Commission approval or disapproval of applications for the Grant Program. The Commission will appoint four members to the Committee as follows:

- 1) One person who has knowledge and awareness of the issues faced by deaf persons;
- 2) One person who has knowledge and awareness of the issues faced by hard of hearing persons; and
- 3) Two 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 initial terms of service for the Grant Program Committee appointees will be staggered. As determined by the Commission, one member will serve a two-year term and two members will serve one-year terms. All members will then serve three-year terms in the out years.

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

Rules

Three sets of the Commission rules are up for review and approval by the State Board of the Department of Human Services; however, the State Board requires that the proposed rules be distributed to the community stakeholders for their review and feedback. These are the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, Legal Auxiliary Services, and Grant

program rules. Revisions to these rules, except for the Grant Program, 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.

If you wish to review the rules and share your feedback on the proposed rules, please go to: <http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/news/announcements.aspx>.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse System-level Advocacy

Daylight Project is now the name of the Commission's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Implementation Team's Statewide Strategic Use Funds grant project! Prior to the November retreat, the Team felt it needed to identify the project with a name that the community would embrace and for the community to be able to relate it to the Team's important statewide system advocacy. The Team narrowed it down to this most viable name. This project simply brings daylight, if not hope, to the state community in regards to advancement of access to mental health and substance abuse services for deaf and hard of hearing Coloradans.

At the retreat, the Team was able to finalize the project plan and to complete work plans (work details, timelines, internal and external members serving on the work group, etc.) for all of the seven components of the project. These are:

Consumer and Family Leadership: Provide advocacy trainings accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families and support the advocates as they develop a network of support among each other.

Program Evaluation: Provide 1) accountability by documenting the activities and deliverables, 2) a means to ensure continuous improvement and systemic change, and 3) an analysis of lessons learned.

Standards Development: Develop and adopt Guidelines for care in partnership with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, deaf and hard of hearing consumers, the Office of Behavioral Health, and other providers and service delivery systems.

Statewide Training to Behavioral Health Providers: Develop, deliver, and evaluate regional trainings and incorporation of deaf and hard of hearing curricula into existing training opportunities.

Sustainability Planning: Plan partnership with providers and the Division of Behavioral Health to ensure long-term availability of training and technology support.

Technology Training and Distribution: Distribute assistive communication technology to participating providers who report gaps in technology access.

Training and Technology Assessment: Assess mental health and substance abuse provider skills, training needs, and technology needs.

Upon completion of the retreat, the Team prioritized three components for immediate action. These are 1) Training and Technology Assessment, 2) Standards, and 3) Consumer and Family Leadership. Work groups for these components have already begun and are moving forward with leadership from consultants for the training and technology assessment and standards. The other components will be addressed when this immediate action is complete.

Sunset Review of the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform at the Department of Regulatory Agencies has recently released a sunset review report on the Commission for the state legislature. A sunset review, which can be considered as “performance evaluation” of the governmental agencies is mandated by the state legislature. The legislature can determine to repeal all or part of a law after a specific date, unless they act to extend it. The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing statute authorized the Commission to operate under the Department of Human Services until June 30, 2010.

This sunset review has recommended the legislature to extend the Commission for five (5) years or until June 30, 2015. Legislation to extend it will be introduced in the January 2010 legislative session.

For a copy of the sunset review report on the Commission, go to:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/opr/archive/2009CommissionforDeaf.pdf>

Vacant Commissioner Positions

The CCDHH Nominations Committee is seeking at least three (3) independent, enthusiastic and committed candidates for the following positions:

1. one member who is deaf,
2. one member who is hard of hearing, and
3. one member who is an interpreter.

The Commission advises on policies that direct the staff to take a course of action to meet the agency functions, mission and vision, promotes the interests of the deaf and hard of hearing constituents, and ensures the quality of communication access. Additionally, the Commission evaluates how the goals, programs and policies are implemented and executed by the Administrator.

Job duties include, but are not limited to:

- Serving a four-year term of office from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014
- Assisting in the development of policies
- Monitoring the functions and performance of the agency

- Attend quarterly and special Commission meetings
- Preparing for Commission meetings
- Becoming familiar with the needs of your specific constituency
- Serving on Commission Committees
- Representing the Commission before the public, businesses, and the community

The positions are open to Colorado residents.

Commissioners receive no paid compensation for their service on the Commission, but travel expenses are reimbursed in accordance with state travel regulations.

Submit your application for the Commission position in writing to Shaylisa Hurte, Director of Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, 136 State Capitol Building, Denver, Colorado 80203-1792. For more information or application, click the Offices of the Governor tab at www.colorado.gov/governor for the Boards and Commissions page.

For more information on the CCDHH, please visit www.coloradodeafcommission.com or contact Debbie Mohney, Commissioner at Debbie@mountainocean.com.

The application deadline is **Friday, January 15, 2010.**

Denver Center of Performing Arts

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) now has information about accessibility at the DCPA on their website. Shows that have interpreters, audio described, or open captioning available are listed at: <http://www.denvercenter.org/planyourvisit/PhysicalAccessibility.aspx>.

Program Eligibility Application Kit

The Program Eligibility Application Kit, or PEAK, is up and running. This is a self-service, interactive Web site that 1) allows potential applicants the ability to check for possible eligibility for food assistance, cash assistance, and medical assistance through the "Am I Eligible" function, and 2) allows existing clients to check the status of their benefits through the "Check My Benefits" function. The site is in English and Spanish. Check it out at <https://peak.state.co.us/selfservice/selfserviceLogout?fwlat=1256654440>.

Commission Meeting

The Commission's next quarterly meeting will be held from **2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2009**, at:

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

Glen Gardner, ANC Executive Leader, will give a presentation on a new telephone technology. Refreshments and drinks will be served as well.

Come and visit with us!

**THE COMMISSION STAFF, COMMISSIONERS AND THE DIVISION OF THE BOARDS/
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WISH YOU A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

**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**