



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Monthly Bulletin

September 2007

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.

About Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was established by Section 26-21-102, C.R.S., to facilitate the provision of general governmental services to the deaf and hard of hearing community while making government more efficient. Under the Federal "Americans with Disabilities Act," Colorado has a duty to provide to the deaf and hard of hearing, equivalent access to governmental services. This duty requires State departments and other resources to enable such access.

The powers, functions, and duties of the Commission include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) The Commission serves as a liaison between the deaf and hard of hearing community and the General Assembly, Governor, and Colorado departments and agencies.
- 2) The Commission serves as an informal resources to the state and the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- 3) The Commission serves as a referral agency for the deaf and hard of hearing community to other state agencies and institutions who provide services to such communities and to the local agencies of the government.
- 4) The Commission assesses how technology has affected the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- 5) The Commission assesses the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and makes recommendations to the General Assembly, any legislation that may facilitate and streamline the provision of governmental services to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Who's Who on the Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Term</u>
Joe Benedetto, Chair	Deaf community	7/30/10
Susan Elliott, Vice-chair	Late deafened community	7/30/08
Vicki Thomson, Secretary	Professional in deafness and disabilities	7/30/08
Terry Sims, Budget Chair	Member of the public	7/30/08
Debbie Mohney	Hard of Hearing community	7/30/10
Shelley Strickfaden	Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children	7/30/08
Nancy Jean Eubanks	Interpreting community	7/30/10

Who's Who on the Staff

Cliff Moers, Director

Cliff is a native of Colorado and is the third generation of a deaf family. He is a 1986 graduate of Gallaudet University. Mr. Moers has been involved in many community organizations and has served on numerous committees, task forces, councils and boards, including 4 years as Colorado Association of the Deaf (CAD) President. He is the founder of the Rocky Mountain Deaf School, a bilingual Jefferson County Charter School. Cliff has a diverse professional background including the coordination of auxiliary aids/services at University of Colorado at Boulder, U.S. Postal Service, and Communication Service for the Deaf/Sign Language Associates. He was also the employment specialist/consultant for the Center for People with Disabilities and Deaf-initely Possible Resources. Cliff has 4 adorable kids and a supportive wife, Julie.

Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Referral Specialist

Cheri is a 1997 graduate of the Front Range Community College Interpreter Preparation Program. After graduation, she worked as a Job Coach/Interpreter for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and then as an Educational Interpreter for Douglas County Schools. Cheri also has a Bachelors degree in Business from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Cheri is married and lives in Highlands Ranch with her husband, Ed, and 2 children, Taylor and Beth.

Legal Auxiliary Services Program

The Legal Auxiliary Services Program was created by the passage of Senate Bill 06-061 during the 2006 legislative session. This program was established to centralize and administer the provision of qualified legal interpreters and CART providers as well as assistive listening systems for deaf and hard of hearing citizens in the Colorado State Courts.

The program currently has an Advisory Council to advise the Commission's Legal Auxiliary Services Program 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.

The council reports directly to the Commission through the Commission's liaison and a staff person: Nancy Jean Eubanks, Commission Interpreter Representative and Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Referral Specialist.

Duties and responsibilities are to 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.

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

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 the Commission.

Members : Deaf representatives (2): Jennifer Pfau, Chair and Mandy Pierce

Hard of hearing representatives (2): John Hayden and Mark Valkonen

Legal qualified or certified interpreters (3): LeWana Clark, Lorrie Kosinski, and Lynda Rimmel

CART provider: Pat Graves

Person with Disability Law background: Carrie Ann Lucas

The second review of the rules by the State Board of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will be held at CDHS, 1575 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203 at 10 am on September 7, 2007. Please see the attachment for more information. You are welcome to come!

Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program is available through the Marion Downs Hearing Center. It provides telecommunications equipment to qualified low-income deaf and hard of hearing citizens in the state of Colorado. The program allows qualified applicants to select telecommunications equipment from state approved vendors. The available equipment include: TTYs, amplified phones, speaker phones, ring signaling devices and specialized telephone equipment for deaf-blind citizens. The Commission will update the possible equipment available on a yearly basis.

For more information or application, contact: Marion Downs Hearing Center
1793-2 Quentin Street
Aurora, CO 80045
720-848-2970 (Voice) 2979 (TTY) 2976 (Fax)
mdhc@uch.edu
www.mariondownshearing.org

Surveys

The Commission would like your feedback for the Commission's planning on program needs and priorities. We are interested in your opinions and ideas as we seek to improve our offerings.

Each survey (community's and State's) contains questions for you to answer and should take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. All responses will remain anonymous: individual names will not be associated with unique responses. This survey is optional, not mandatory. Results of the survey will be presented to the Commission for analysis and discussion.

Please use the survey according to your stakeholder status with the Commission (community member or State employee). You will find instructions at the top of the survey attached.

Thank you for your participation!

Commission Meeting Notice

The next scheduled meeting for the Commission is at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2007. Location will be announced. There will be a public comment period available to the public during the meeting. You are more than welcome to join us.

Attached is the meeting notice.

Presentation Available

A presentation about the Commission and its functions is available. Please contact the office to schedule a presentation.

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