



MINUTES

MARCH 2, 2017

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

HARMONY LIBRARY, FT. COLLINS, CO

MEETING CALLED BY	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, at 4:05 pm
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Commission Meeting
COMMISSIONERS	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, Auxiliary Service Provider Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Vice Chair and Deaf Member Amy Becktell, Secretary and Late-Deafened Member (remote) Lori Goeden, Professional working with individuals in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community Lucas Marquardt, Hard of Hearing Member (remote) Chris Pendley, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person Cynde Vaughn, Deaf-Blind Member
CCDHH STAFF	Cliff Moers, Administrator; Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager; Mandy Turner, Auxiliary Services Coordinator; Timothy Chevalier, Outreach and Consultative Services Manager; JoAnne Hirsch, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator; Ryan Hawkins, Deafblind Service Coordinator
INTERPRETERS	Terri Tupps, Lariisa McClung and Tricia Frank, Claudette Mondragon (CART)

Agenda topics

1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING

DISCUSSION		
Welcome:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Neuroth called the meeting at 4:15 p.m. and thanked the Harmony Library of Ft. Collins for hosting the meeting and thanked auxiliary service providers. If anyone does not understand the role of any of the commissioner, please feel free to ask during the break. He announced the meeting rules. When speaking, please stand and state your name, then speak or sign your comment or question. Only one person at a time should be speaking. There is a loop system; please use the microphone. As a reminder, the format of the meetings has changed; Commissioners can make motions at any time throughout the meeting. If time allows, attendees can make comments from the floor. There is a signup sheet. After the regular meeting there will be a Community Forum: Report on access to health care in Northern Colorado by Patric VanCampen, Bridging Communication committee representative. 		
Introductions and Roll Call		
Approval of Agenda		
Approval of Minutes		
DECISIONS		
Agenda and Minutes approved		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		

3. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON UPDATES

CHAIRPERSONS AND LIAISONS

DISCUSSION	Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council (LASAC), Matthew Ruggles Chair
LASAC is in the process of updating the standard operating procedural (SOP) manual for interpreters. This	

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Quarterly Commission Meeting



will be a lengthy process		
Two terms are ending June 30, 2017; Matthew Ruggles, representing the Deaf, and Mark McMullen, representing the Disabled. Both members have served two terms. Lariisa McClung, representing Interpreters, Carol Custer, Hard of Hearing representative, and Diane Humphrey, CART Representative, are on their first two-year term and can apply for a second two-year term.		
Chair Ruggles also announced a CRID community forum to be held April 7 - 8. This forum is open to all interested parties, but is not sponsored or a part of the CCDHH. The Independent Living Center is taking the lead on this and is seeking input from interpreters and stakeholders for issues related to licensure and certification.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time.		

DISCUSSION	Bylaws Committee Report, Amy Beckett, Commissioner	
No report at this time.		
DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DISCUSSION	Nominating Committee, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly	
The Committee members are Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Chair, and Cynde Vaughn, and Lucan Marquardt, members. Commissioner Graham-Kelly will be training Commissioner Vaughn so she can take over after Commissioner Graham-Kelly's term ends.		
The Nominating Committee is responsible for screening applications when Commissioner seats are vacated and making recommendations for new commissioners. The Committee also make recommendations for officer positions as needed. They also make nominations for the Susan J Elliott award. This award is in honor of Susan Elliott, a retired teacher for the deaf. She was heavily involved in the founding of the CCDHH, and was the Chairperson for several years. This award is given to individuals or an agency that works to promote advocacy for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Nominations for the Susan J Elliott award	Committee	End of FY17

DISCUSSION	Grant Report, Cliff Moers, Administrator	
The next fiscal year starts in July 2017, and the grant applications will be available in June 2017. Administrator Moers asked to be contacted if anyone is interested in receiving information about the FY 2018 grants.		
The FY 2017 grant awardees will present their reports after the end of fiscal year 2017, due August 31, 2017. These will be given to the Commissioners, and awardees may be asked to provide presentations about their projects at future Commission meetings.		
DECISIONS		



None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DISCUSSION	Deaf-Blind Task Force, Cynde Vaughn, Commissioner	
Funding was approved to hire two staff positions for the Commission for deafblind support services. One position has been filled; Ryan Hawkins, Deafblind Service Coordinator. The other is for the SSP. This position has been hard to fill. The Commission is working on a training reclassification for a training specialist that may help with locating a qualified person, perhaps seeking a candidate outside Colorado.		
After the hires are completed, the task force want to have an outreach event to let people know about the services that are available. They hope to do this in June, Hellen Keller's birth month.		
Sprint Relay is hosting a town hall training on April 29 at the Englewood Library. It will be a 3-hour event to let people know about their services. They have a lot of different services and apps for people who are low vision, blind and deafblind.		
The Deafblind Task force wants to formalize how the deafblind community has a voice on different organizational boards and with the state legislature. The Task Force is asking for ideas and guidance for how to make that happen. One idea presented: Partner with the CRID event happening in June.		
DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Complete hiring process for SSP	Administrative Office	As candidates are available

DISCUSSION	Hearing Aid Task Force, Lucas Marquardt, Commissioner	
No report at this time		
DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

4. DEAF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE AND STAFFING

SARA KENNEDY, INSPIRING CHANGE TASK FORCE CO-LEAD

DISCUSSION
This update is a continuation of efforts from the "Inspiring Change" project funded by a grant from the Commission about 3 years ago. Ms. Kennedy is a parent of a deaf child and was a leader on the Inspiring Change project. The purpose of the grant project was to see what could be done to improve deaf education outcomes in Colorado. Ms. Kennedy shared some of the lessons learned.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silos don't work: Children can't easily cross districts for more appropriate services when needed. Some school districts have fine programs, but they work independently of each other and do not share information. • Limited resources & few prepared professionals serving a small number of children with varied needs over a wide geographic area makes collaboration more necessary than ever. Positions are not being replaced as professionals retire. Training is needed to fill the positions. • Where is the data to help us make good decisions? We need access to this as citizens and stakeholders. Challenging due to sometime small number that make students identifiable. • Where is the proactive recruitment and retention and ongoing training efforts for quality staff?



- Interpreter licensure has been targeted to have higher requirements for the past four years. Action is needed.
- CSDB dropped their accreditation with CEASD; where is our assurance of quality programming?

The Inspiring Change task force developed 65 recommendations, and wants to keep working on this issue. They met with the Joint Budget Committee in December 2016. It is possible a legislative action may take place. The following items were presented.

1. Creation of a statewide deaf education steering committee
2. Approving one FTE under the CCDHH to facilitate the committee
3. Including a statewide policy summit/education offering each year to problem-solve barriers and victories

Once the steering committee is established the goals include:

1. Increase our access to meaningful data (like MN and WA)
2. Continually update the plan for improvement in deaf education,
3. Support professional development, quality standards, improved assessment, retention/recruitment, parent support, the inclusion of deaf role models system-wide and tackling the difficulties of local control/district support.

Ms. Kennedy asked attendees for their support in letting legislators know about this issue, especially in some of the less populated counties. She can help with talking points both in emails or phones calls.

DECISIONS

None at this time

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Contact Sara Kennedy if interested in contacting congressmen

Anyone with interest

By March 13

5. STATUS OF THE COLORADO DAYLIGHT PARTNERSHIP (CDP)

MARY STEFFITT, CDP DIRECTOR

DISCUSSION

The CDP provides communication access for people who are receiving behavioral healthcare. The Partnership is in its seventh year and started with funding from the state from the Strategic Use Fund. Some of the activities include:

- Presentations on CDP Standards of Care at the ADARA National Conference and the American Public Health Association Annual Conference
- Hosting Committee for AHPA Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Hearing Loss/Deaf-Blind Gathering
- Colorado Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Cultural Competency Advisory Council
- Providing Training & Technical Assistance to Learning Collaborative agencies
- Advising OBH on development of new data tool for MH/SA providers
- Developed report Top Priorities to Address Gaps in Behavioral Health Services for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Colorado- presentations to OBH and CBHC

The Partnership will be asking for more funding from the state Office of Behavioral Health to continue the work.

There was a large discussion around the graphical data presented showing Mental Health Equity and Service gaps comparing the Colorado total population and the deaf and hard of hearing population. In 2015, the average rate for services provided for the total population for people with various types of mental illness was 27.61%. For deaf and hard of hearing that rate is 3.17% demonstrating an underserved population. This means that only 3.17% of the deaf and hard of hearing people that needed the services received it. For citations about the data, contact Mary Sterritt.

Future plans include:

- Requesting funding from the Colorado State Innovation Model (SIM) for integration of behavioral health care and primary care
- OBH State General Fund Considerations
- Current CDP expansion
- 2018 CDP expansion service access, training and technical assistance through statewide system of care and/or training/technical assistance center



Other discussion was around the type of services available including training for treating people outside traditional models, how the mental health centers vet interpreters, and using certified deaf interpreters.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

None at this time

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

6. CCDHH STRATEGIC PLANNING

KATIE CUE, STRATEGIC PLAN FACILITATOR

DISCUSSION

The process for completing the needs assessment was presented by Administrator Moers. The Commission is entering its fifth and final year of the current strategic plan and a new plan is needed for a 3–5 year period. Before developing the plan, the Administrative Office will gather information from the community. The neutral person developing and conducting the survey is Katie Cue.

Developing Needs Assessment to guide new strategic plan for 2017

- Will use foundation of 2010 Needs Assessment for comparison purposes and add new lines of queries as needed
- Will survey same populations from 2010 assessments for comparison purposes and add new populations to sample as needed
- Surveys will be bilingual (ASL & English)
- Will work with CCDHH team in devising questions and broadening scope of survey as needed
- Will add focus groups to elicit in-depth feedback in addition to the survey
- Survey results will help guide focus group sampling

The survey will be given to different groups: CCDHH staff, Commissioners, deaf and hard of hearing people, and state employees. The strategic plan will be based on the survey results.

DECISIONS

None at this time

ACTION ITEMS

Katie Cue will send surveys to Commissioners for feedback a review

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Katie Cue and Commissioners

DEADLINE

April 2017

7. DEAFBLIND SERVICES UPDATE

RYAN HAWKINS, DEAFBLIND SERVICES COORDINATOR

DISCUSSION

Ryan Hawkins is the Deafblind Service Coordinator focusing on the Support Service Providers (SSPs) and the Orientation and Mobility (O & M) programs for deafblind individuals. SSPs is a visual provider for a deaf individual and O&M providers let blind individuals know what the environment is like.

Mr. Hawkins joined the Administrative office in January 2017 and has been working on making contacts and creating the paperwork needed to execute the SSP program. All of this is new in Colorado, so he has been researching what has been done in other states. Documentation includes policies, procedures, code of conduct, complaint process, and independent contractor agreements. The work is to ensure the office meets the needs of people in Colorado and stays in compliance with state policies. Outreach efforts will begin after the paperwork is completed.

Mr. Hawkins asked for ideas for connecting with deafblind in our state, especially in rural areas. Responses: Contact Independent Living Centers, partner with rural electric coops to help with mailing announcements, interpreters to share information with deafblind people they may contact, connect with the Older Individuals that are Blind (OIB), senior centers, connect with families that refer people to TEDP.

Mr. Hawkins encouraged the commissioners to refer people and get them scheduled for SSPs regardless of the timing of the paperwork being completed.



Mr. Hawkins thanked the Deafblind Task Force for their work.

DECISIONS

The Commission will use the term “deafblind” going forward, not deaf-blind. It will not be capitalized unless it is part of a name.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Complete the documentation & get it approved	Ryan Hawkins	Before June 2017
Refer people needing services	Commissioners	As needed

8. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Public Comment:

- Follow up question about the interpreter licensure meeting on April 8 that Matthew Ruggles talked about. The meeting structure is still under development. People can contact Matthew Ruggles via email to express interest.
- A Rocky Mountain Health Plans representative shared that RMHP has partnered with the ILC to use funding to hire a full-time interpreter that will be available to the medical community in Grand Junction. The position is open.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Beckett