



MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2016

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

DAHLIA CAMPUS FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
3401 EUDORA ST
DENVER, CO 80207

MEETING CALLED BY	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, at 4:10 pm
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Commission Meeting
COMMISSIONERS	Kirk Neuroth, CCDHH Commission Chair, Interpreter Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Vice Chair and Deaf Member Amy Beckett, Secretary and Public Member (attending remotely) Liz Konkell, Professional in the field of deafness Lucas Marquardt, Hard of Hearing Member Leslie Ralph, Late-Deafened Member Lisa Weiss, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person (attending remotely)
INTERPRETERS/CART	Interpreters: Tricia Frank, Sara Romes, Terri Tupps, Suzanne Stecker, Rachel Boll CART: Claudette Mondragon
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; Candice Alder, Outreach Consultant

Agenda topics

1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING

DISCUSSION		
Welcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Neuroth thanked the Mental Health Center of Denver for hosting the meeting at their Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being. He announced that the meeting was following a new format to allow for discussions about more topics, proposals, motions, and action items. After the regular meeting there will be a Community Forum. The speaker will be Ryan Odland, Regional Representative, Helen Keller National Center. 	
	Introductions and Roll Call	
	Approval of Agenda	
	Approval of Minutes	
DECISIONS		
	Agenda and Minutes approved	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

3. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON UPDATES

CHAIRPERSONS AND LIAISONS

DISCUSSION	Legal Advisory Services Advisory Council, Matthew Ruggles Chair
	Matthew Ruggles stated that the rules for this council are over 9 years old and need to be revised as they are out of date. In April, the Council will meet to discuss revisions to the rules.
	The council has four members whose terms expire at the end of June.
DECISIONS	
	Meeting is needed to review and revise the council rules.

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



Post vacancies prior to expiration of terms.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Post open positions for expiring terms	Matthew Ruggles	6/30/16
Review the current rules and recommend updates	LASAC	6/30/16

DISCUSSION **Bylaws Committee Report, Amy Beckett, Commissioner**

No report at this time

DECISIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DISCUSSION **Nominating Committee, Lisa Weiss, Commissioner**

Lisa Weiss reported these are four commissioners whose terms expire June 30, 2016. These are:
 Lisa Weiss, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person
 Leslie Ralph, Late-Deafened Member
 Amy Beckett, Public Member
 Liz Konkell, Professional in the field of deafness

The Administrative Office has posted these positions and applications have been received. The deadline of February 29, 2016 was extended to March 18 to allow for more applications. The commission has 45 days to complete the selection process before the end of June and the committee is on target to finish in mid-May.

The nominations committee is also requesting nominations for the Susan Elliot award. Send all nominations for this award to Lisa Weiss.

DECISIONS

Open commissioner positions have been posted with a plan to complete the process within the designated time-frame.

Nominations are open for the Susan Elliot Award.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Make Commissioner selections from applicant pool.	Nominating Committee	May 14, 2016
Collect and process nominations for the Susan Elliot Award	Lisa Weiss	May 14, 2016

DISCUSSION **Grant Report, Cliff Moers, Administrator**

Cliff Moers received the grant reports for Fiscal Year 2015 from all grant recipients and will distribute to the Commissioners by March 11, 2016. Applications for Fiscal Year 2016 grants will be sent out in May this year to encourage more applicants.

DECISIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send grant reports to Commissioners	Cliff Moers	3/11/16
Send out the grant applications for FY 2017	Cliff Moers	Mid-May

DISCUSSION **Deaf Education Liaison Report, Lisa Weiss, Commissioner**

No report at this time. This topic will be discussed later in the meeting.



DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DISCUSSION	Deaf-Blind Task Force, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Commissioner	
<p>No report at this time from Commissioner Graham-Kelly. However, Administrator Moers had an update. He met with the leaders of the Deaf-Blind Task Force. They had a meeting with the legislature and Representative Primavera is very interested in presenting the bill by March 15. The bill as it stands right now is to create a separate commission, but the deaf-blind community prefers that it be housed in the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, so he is not sure how this will play out.</p> <p>Also, Administrator Moers reported the task force planned to set up a deaf-blind coalition advocacy organization that can advocate for the deaf-blind. There are questions about how this can be funded.</p> <p>The disabled telephone user's fund is considering including surcharges to wireless phones in order to receive more money. If that passes on March 17, the administrative office is not sure how that will affect the positions for deaf-blind individuals underneath that commission. This is work in progress.</p>		
DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

4. AMENDMENT TO CCDHH STATUTE

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION	Administrator Moers confirmed that the Commissioners had received and read the amendment to the statute. He discussed some of the important points addressed in the amendment.	
<p>The name of our organization will change. One, the name will reflect that we are now a division. Second, the name may incorporate the deaf-blind constituency. Possible names were displayed at the meeting; however, a decision for the name does not need to be made at this time.</p> <p>The statute has been updated to add deaf-blind when the terms deaf and hard of hearing are used.</p>		
DECISIONS		
<p>The changes to the statute will occur in the next fiscal year. We need to have a representative to bring the bill forward at next year's legislative session if the Department agrees to do so.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services is also doing research about the statute and the name.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Decide on formal name	Cliff Moers to facilitate	May 2016

5. COMMISSION VS. DIVISION

CHANTALLE HANUSCH, CDHS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS LIAISON

DISCUSSION	Review of what it takes to become a Division under a Department.	
<p>Options for our structure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain as is. This is not a sufficient option for our structure. 2. Become a visible, recognized program that operates like a division, but with the same responsibilities. 3. Become a full-fledged division with the full responsibilities of being a division. <p>Like a Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing would be very similar to current with Administrator and Program Personnel • Minimal C-Stat measures (state measurement for the effectiveness of programs). Our Commission is comparable in size and budget to the Domestic Violence Program and it has 8 C-STATs. 		



- Costs are internal and smaller due to less administration, C-STATs, and reporting.

Full-fledged Division:

- Would require more full-time employees, with a Director or Administrator, Program Managers, and Staff
- Would require more C-STAT measures; some divisions have up to 40 C-STATS, requiring more responsibility to report these measures
- Cost-sharing: Divisions have higher administrative costs for shared salaries.

Discussion Points:

- Reporting to the department would be similar under either option. Administrator reports directly to the Office of Community Access and Independence Director.
- Selection of the option is not permanent and can be changed.
- Change in the statute is one way to move from Commission to a Division. The division can also be set up by the Department with direction from the Executive Director. There is still some question about whether making the name change has to go through as a change in the statute.
- The current Commissioners want to emphasize that the goal for the change to a division is to allow for wider state communication and more visibility.
- As a Division, the name of the Commissioners may change to an Advisory Board.
- Any decisions made will need to look at the impact for the funds from the Disabled Telephone Users Fund, possible changes to the indirect or shared costs, and additional staffing.
- The Commission staff supports changing to a division.
- If we don't become a full-ledged division, we may not be called a division.

DECISIONS

We have until May to review and make decisions about the direction we should take for names and becoming a division or not.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Discuss via email the commissioner's preferences for names

Cliff Moers

5/31/16

Update the Commissioners with information from the Department

Cliff Moers

On-going

6. AUXILLIARY SERVICES SURVEY FOR STATE AGENCIES

CLIFF MOERS & CHERI DAVIS

DISCUSSION

Review of the 4th version of the survey to be sent to state agencies

The survey was distributed to the Commissions prior to the meeting for review. Final version is almost completed.

The survey will be sent to state agencies within the Executive branch encompassing about 19 Departments. Trying to set the time to complete the survey to 15 minutes.

Cliff Moers & Cheri Davis are meeting with Department Public Information Officers and Human Resources heads to educate them about the need for the survey and provide information about the Commission and what it does.

DECISIONS

Plans for finalizing and distributing the survey are underway.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Send final survey to the Executive Brand Departments

CCDHH Staff

3/21/16

Make a presentation to Public Information Officers

Cliff Moers & Cheri Davis

By 3/11/16

Make a presentation to Human Resources Department heads

Cliff Moers & Cheri Davis

By 3/18/16

Collect responses and analyze data (3 weeks for responses)

CCDHH Staff

Start 4/4/16



7. SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING ISSUES

CHERI DAVIS

DISCUSSION	Presentation of issues in the field on interpreting to ensure the Commissioners are aware.	
	People involved with interpreting, both service providers and consumers, are looking to the Commission to do something about issues that have arisen. The Colorado issues are similar to those in the 2015 report from the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC).	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RID, the national organization for interpreters, has a moratorium on issuing certification. In Colorado, there is a statute that a person cannot state they are an interpreter if they don't hold a national certification. This conundrum has people in the state very nervous. Ms. Davis clarified that the intent of the Colorado law is that people cannot state they are certified if they are not. If they disclose they are not certified, then the consumer can still elect to use their services. In addition, there have been several talks attempting to require Colorado licensure for interpreting. • Regarding interpreting preparation programs: There are schools offering a 2-year program, but a 4-year degree is required for certification. Students take the 2-year program then transfer to a 4-year program to complete their degree. However, the focus then is on general studies, and the students lose focus to improve their interpreting and ASL skills. The discussion is to create a 4-year program for interpreting in Colorado. • Another issue regards students who graduate from the 4-year programs, but are not ready to take the certification exams, creating a gap between graduation and certification with the students unable to utilize the skills they have learned. • There are questions/issues about the use of technology, specifically Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). Many hospitals are forcing the use of VRI and are not giving the clients a choice for in-person interpreting. Also under issue is the use of Video Relay Services (VRS) since the VRS Centers are all over the country. The caller may be in Colorado, but the service is in another state, and they may not be aware of the laws in this state. • There appear to be fewer trainings and workshops for people needing to hone their skills and people have asked for the Commission to provide these trainings. This is a conflict of interest. 	
DECISIONS	There are many items to consider that are not necessarily issues, but need some type of resolution, action, or response.	
	Kirk Neuroth moved that CCDHH host a road-map forum using the information from the NCIEC report, with input from individuals who are involved in interpreting in Colorado, from interpreting agencies, representatives from the interpreter preparation programs, and consumers with an outside, neutral facilitator. Motion seconded and passed.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Plan and set up the forum, including determining the facilitator	Spark Policy Consultant & CCDHH staff	TDB

8. DEAF EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE WITH A FULL-TIME PAID COORDINATOR

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION	Discussion of the status for implementing and moving forward with the 7 Agreements Blueprint
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action on the Blueprint has stalled. • Recommendations for the Blueprint are in the annual CCDHH report to the state Legislature. The main recommendation was to establish a steering committee with a fulltime paid staff to coordinate the work of deaf education statewide. • In the presentation to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), members asked if there are supporters for this recommendation. The Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) does not support this. As well, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is not in full support. • Therefore, the best way to move forward is to create grassroots support from citizens. Members of the Legislature need to be approached by their constituents so they know that this is important to the people they represent.



DECISIONS	This is a complex issue that may take several years to implement, even with support from all interested parties.	
Mary Pat Graham-Kelly moved that a contingent of two to three Commissioners reconnect with the three organizations that proposed the original 7 Agreements: Colorado Hands and Voices, Colorado Association of the Deaf, and Rocky Mountain Deaf School to move forward with the Seven Agreements. Motion seconded and passed.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Commissioners volunteer to reconnect with CAD, H & V, RMDS	Mary Pat Graham-Kelly	TBD
Conduct brainstorming session and determine actions	TBD	TBD

9. STANDARDS FOR ASL INSTRUCTORS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

TIMOTHY CHEVALIER

DISCUSSION	Lack of Standards for ASL Instructors in the postsecondary setting and the impact	
<p>Collaboration group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Boyd, University ASL Instructor • Robert Mitchell, Ph.D., Colorado Department of Higher Education, Academic Policy Officer for Educator Preparation • Cliff Moers, Administrator, CCDHH • Kirk Neuroth, CCDHH Commissioner-Interpreter/CART Representative • Timothy Chevalier, Ed.D., CCDHH Outreach & Consultative Services Manager <p>The lack of standards for ASL Instructors in the postsecondary setting means that there are non-qualified ASL instructors. These instructors lack appropriate education and credentials. They teach classes using source language (English) and lack sufficient knowledge of ASL to model/teach accurately. The postsecondary students lack exposure to genuine target language (ASL) models.</p> <p>As a result, students are unable to transfer credits from one institution to another because they lack the prerequisite skill level. These interpreters who work with deaf children may model idiosyncratic signs and stifle language development. Deaf consumers cope with inequity to communication access.</p> <p>The Collaboration Group has developed strategies and will develop a work plan to encompass the following: For Dr. Robert Mitchell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the pathway from Community Colleges to four-year programs • Connect with CDE to obtain their plans for ASL instruction • Check on provisions for ASL instruction to see if there is a mechanism to address the lack of proficiency and transfer of credits • Obtain information about the expected knowledge and skill base of students taking ASL courses • Check with the academic council about the available resources <p>For Karen Boyd: Will investigate how North Carolina established more rigorous standards for instructors who teach ASL on the postsecondary level</p> <p>Future plans for the Collaboration Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting to share information in early April • Possible review by Colorado's Academic Council • Possible discussion with CDE regarding their plans for ASL • Possible establishment of a task force 		
DECISIONS	None at this time. Report only.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No action items for the commission at this time		



10. WORK PLAN

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION	Review and discuss the work plan for CCDHH	
DECISIONS		
Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to a future meeting		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

11. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS INCLUDED)

DISCUSSION	
<p>Chair Neuroth asked the Commissioners to provide feedback to him about the new meeting format. Also, he reminded the Commissioners to bring their handbooks to the meeting on June 2.</p> <p>After the conclusion of the meeting, a staff member from the Dahlia Campus will conduct tours of the facility for people who are interested.</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Question regarding expanding deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing services outside the Denver metro area. Response: The administrative office would like to see this expansion, but long-term planning and funding are required.</p> <p>Question about the deaf-blind coalition. Is this for community members or is it a coalition for professionals, as well. Response: What the deaf-blind community hopes to form is an advocacy organization of and for the deaf-blind, similar to Colorado Association of the Deaf, HLAA, or AG Bell.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Becktell