



MINUTES

JUNE 1, 2017

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

HOLIDAY IN EXPRESS & SUITES 3418
MARIPOSA ST. ALAMOSA, CO 81101

MEETING CALLED BY	Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, at 4:20 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 Chris Pendley, Parent of a deaf or hard-of-hearing person Cynde Vaughn, Deafblind Member
CCDHH STAFF	Cliff Moers, Administrator; Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager; Timothy Chevalier, Outreach and Consultative Services Manager; Ryan Hawkins, Deafblind Service Coordinator
INTERPRETERS	Tricia Frank, Jo Linda Greenfield, Candace Stuck
CART PROVIDER	Trish Messinger

Agenda topics

1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING

DISCUSSION		
<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Neuroth called the meeting at 4:20 p.m. 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. The room is fairly small with lots of equipment; Chair Neuroth asked for people to be careful when standing and moving around. As a reminder, 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: A presentation of a collaborative enforcement training presented by Timothy Chevalier, CCDHH Outreach & Consultative Services Manager, and Paul Simmons. 		
Introductions and Roll Call		
Approval of Agenda		
Approval of Minutes		
DECISIONS		
Agenda and Minutes approved		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		



CYNDE VAUGHN, COMMISSIONER

3. MEETING ACCESS FOR DEAFBLIND INDIVIDUALS

DISCUSSION		
<p>The purpose of the presentation was to explain to the Commission about meeting accessibility for deafblind individuals now that the Commission has added these services to its scope. Commissioner Vaughn gave an overview of how to conduct meetings to make them accessible for people with dual sensory loss. She provided exposure and awareness of how to be inclusive in the Commission meetings</p>		
<p>Important Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person speaking should always identify him/her self. This helps the deafblind individual know who is speaking and cuts down on confusion. • Before/at the start of the meeting, identify where people are sitting and what the room looks like. • Include introductions of everyone in the room, including the interpreters and the SSPs so the individual has an awareness of everyone in the room. • Also include a description of the number of people in the audience and where they are seated. • In the case of interpreters, let the individual know who is speaking through interpreters. • Orientation is important regarding the room arrangements, who is speaking, and where they are located. • When providing orientation instructions, don't point, use directional words (up, down, right, left, etc.). Don't wave, nod, or use other visible cues. • Provide meeting topics ahead of time so the deafblind individual can orient for the timeframe of the meeting. 		
<p>Language Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deafblind is not a person who cannot hear and see. It is a continuum of various ranges of limitations in hearing and seeing. • Therefore, different communication methods are needed. <p>Commissioner Vaughn provided a short video to demonstrate one of the forms of tactile communication that can be used to replace or complement other types of language, such as Braille, voicing and ASL. The video is at this link. https://qz.com/758851/deafblind-americans-developed-a-language-that-doesnt-involve-sight-or-sound/</p>		
<p>Digital Content Points:</p> <p>Commissioner Vaughn also had information about making websites and other digital content accessible to people who are deafblind. There are various navigation and digital devices to make content accessible.</p> <p>She also provided some devices that people can use that simulate what some of the more common types of vision loss will look like to help people understand the loss.</p> <p>She also explained that people with dual sensory loss often are in a mode to predict and decode their surroundings; therefore, accurate orientation information is valuable to help a person understand what is going on.</p>		
DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
The Commission will do all it can to make the meetings accessible to all	Commission Office	All meetings

4. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON UPDATES

CHAIRPERSONS AND LIAISONS

DISCUSSION	Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Council (LASAC), Matthew Ruggles Chair	
<p>Matthew Ruggles' term expires June 30, 2017. He enjoyed his experience as the Chair. He learned a lot about the complex processes about how the LASAC services are run. He was able to learn the from the Legal Auxiliary Services perspective.</p>		

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Mr. Ruggles is the Deaf representative. The Legal Representative term also ends June 30, 2017. The Deafblind representative is also open.

Anyone interested in serving on the council can contact Cheri Davis at the CCDHH administrative office.

DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Encourage people to apply to serve on the Council	All attendees	Before next meeting

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

DISCUSSION	Nominating Committee, Mary Pat Graham-Kelly	
The Committee members are Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Chair; Lori Goeden; Cynde Vaught; and Lucas Marquardt/		
The Nominating Committee is seeking 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. Nominations can be sent to the Administrative office, and the staff will forward to the Committee.		
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	
Notification that the fiscal year 2018 grant cycle application process is open was posted in the latest e-bulletin. The deadline to apply is July 31, 2017. Grant applicants must be a 501(c)3 organization, local government, state agency, or state-operated program.		
The Grant Program Committee has two vacancies; one representing the public, and another representing the hard of hearing. Positions start July 1, 2017 for a three-year term. The committee members review the applications and make recommendations for awards. Anyone interested in applying for the open positions can contact the Administrative office.		
One grant that was awarded in fiscal year 2017 was not completed. The grant was awarded to the Colorado Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition for building an independent living center for deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind citizens. They gave 2 or 3 of 6 town hall meetings and the grant was to provide communication access at these meetings. They determined that there was not support for their plan and dissolved the group. The funds that remained, about \$4,000, were given to the Silent Athletic Club. Administrator Moers approved.		
DECISIONS		

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None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Recruit and encourage people to join the committee	All in attendance	7/31/2017

DISCUSSION	Deafblind Task Force, Cynde Vaughn, Commissioner	
Commissioner Vaughn reported that the Task Force is starting to see more results in the past few months, now that the legislation has been passed. New hires within the Commission office have taken place and leadership is in place for Colorado to make headway.		
The Task Force plans to work with the Commission staff about formalizing the Deafblind Task Force and determining what functions will be under the Commission and what can come under a non-profit or other coalition that is independent of the Commission. The Deafblind Task Force is meeting the week of June 5, and this topic will be discussed in more detail.		
Sprint will be conducting a Town Hall for people who are low vision, blind and deafblind to let them know about services available to make phones and relay services more accessible. The date of the Town Hall is June 24. This is a change from the previously reported date from the Commission meeting on March 2, 2017.		
DECISIONS	None at this time	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		

DISCUSSION	Hearing Aid Task Force, Lucas Marquardt, Commissioner	
Commissioner Marquardt reported that the task force has not met as planned. It is difficult to arrange the meetings so they are accessible. He also discussed the Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Act that is being proposed at the national level. Also at the national level is the new Health Care Act that could impact what insurers could cover. As well, any bill passed by the legislature could create resistance from the insurance companies with the funds and legal support to oppose any legislature. The Task Force also needs a larger critical mass of people who need/use hearing aids to be involved and engaged in this effort. He asked for input from the other commissioners for input about how to best proceed in light of these issues.		
Some ideas presented: Connect with the Deafblind Task Force and learn how they quickly and successfully got the bill passed. Reach out to other groups that support this to work to get the critical mass needed to approach the legislature. Consider having a legislative consultant or advisor to assist in the approach. Linda Newell and Danielson were suggested. Connect with Vocational Rehabilitation for people who are on waiting lists for a hearing aid. Apply for a grant to support having meetings that people can attend remotely.		
In summary, we all agree the Task Force should continue to set the ground work for actions; however, the Task Force will see how the OTC bill progresses. One of the first steps is to work out a way to for meetings to be quickly accessible. The new Hard of Hearing Outreach Specialist will be starting soon and can help with meeting facilitation; however, the Task Force activities should be independent of the Commission.		
DECISIONS	None	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		



5. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEYS AND RETREAT PLANNING

KATIE CUE, STRATEGIC PLAN FACILITATOR

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Cue was contracted to prepare a survey to be used in preparing the next strategic plan for the Commission. The survey is the same as the one submitted about 3 or 4 years ago. This will help make the results comparable and valid. Questions have been added regarding deafblind services. Commissioner Vaughn provided feedback for how to make the survey accessible for deafblind participants. The survey is also available as ASL in a video. The Commission board and staff provided input to the survey before it was sent. 		
<p>Ms. Cue sent out the survey last week. Survey was sent to 4 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Staff – Four responses received. Commissioners – Four responses received Community – 13 responses received State Employees – No responses yet. 		
<p>Preliminary analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most respondents are deaf or hard of hearing, and from hearing families. Most are in the 45 – 65 age group. Legal services and advocacy have received very good ratings. Most responses have been positive. Concerns are related to one-on-one advocacy, early hearing detection and intervention, and education. Some concern from staff about the culture of Department of Human Services and working through the bureaucracy. Highest scores are for the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) 		
<p>Survey will remain open until the end of August.</p>		
<p>At the conclusion of the survey, results will be tabulated and presented to the Commissioners for assisting in guiding the development of the new strategic plan at the Fall Retreat. The survey report will compare the results from the previous surveys to the new survey. The Commissioners will also review the current strategic plan to review what has been accomplished these past five years.</p>		
DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Take the survey & encourage constituents to take the survey	All in attendance	August 2017

6. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STATE COURTS AND COURT PROCEDURE STATUTE, C.R.S. 13-90-(201-210)

CHERI DAVIS, LEGAL AUXILIARY SERVICES MANAGER,

DISCUSSION
<p>The proposed amendment is to update the current statute that was written in 2006 and revised slightly in 2009. Most of the changes are technical cleanup for language for Legal Auxiliary Services (LAS).</p>
<p>Main change is to Section 204 that has a list of what the LAS is responsible to cover. Items on this list cannot be covered by the LAS because funding was not provided and the items don't follow the original intent of the statute.</p>
<p>The amendment will add an item to clarify what the LAS is responsible for and what other agencies are responsible for.</p>
<p>The narrative will be submitted to the Department of Human Services and the Department will support this amendment.</p>
<p>Ms. Davis clarified that services provided by LAS do not require "proof" of a disability from the person being served.</p>

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DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None at this time		

7. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CCDHH STATUTE, C.R.S. 26-21-(101-108)

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION		
This amendment is to the statute for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Commissioners discussed and reviewed these changes last year.		
Most of the amendment is for technical and language cleanup of the statute: Name of Commission change to Colorado Commission of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. Adding the term Deafblind throughout. Change the Administrator to a Director. Change Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) to Communications Technology Program. Make auxiliary services available to state agencies within the Executive Branch. Adding the Community Access Program where the deafblind services will be housed based on HB 16-1414		
The statute also requests a Deafblind Council so there will be an organization to advocate for services for Deafblind citizens to be funding through the amendment to the statute.		
Administrator Moers has submitted the proposed amendment to the Office of Community Access and Independence and it will be presented to the Department's executive team on June 19.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Push Department to have this amendment sent to Legislature. Action is sorely needed.	Administrator	June 19, 2017

8. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Announcements:

The Administrative Office has hired two new outreach consultants.
Luke Adams, Hard of Hearing Outreach Consultant, starting on Monday, June 5.
Ryan Odland, Deafblind Outreach Consultant, starts July 17, 2017

Public Comment:

Several people had public comments. In general, the comments and discussion were related to the lack of many services for the deaf community in Alamosa. Items brought up: Lack of jobs, captioning in movie theaters, driver's license identification for people who are deaf, lack of interpreters, interpretation needs at the hospital, with law enforcement, at the schools, in church, and public offices.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Becktell