



MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE,
GRAND JUNCTION CO

MEETING CALLED BY	Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Vice Chair, at 4:20 pm
TYPE OF MEETING	Quarterly Commission Meeting
COMMISSIONERS	Mary Pat Graham-Kelly, Vice Chair, Representing Deaf Constituency Amy Beckett, Secretary, Representing Late-Deafened Constituency Lori Goeden, Representing Professionals working with individuals in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community Lucas Marquardt, Representing Hard of Hearing Constituency (remote attendance) Chris Pendley, Representing Parents of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child Cynde Vaughn, Representing Deafblind Constituency Not present: Kirk Neuroth, Commission Chair, Representing Auxiliary Service Providers
CCDHH STAFF	Cliff Moers, Administrator; Timothy Chevalier, Outreach and Consultative Services Manager; Ryan Odland, Deafblind Outreach Consultant; Luke Adams, Hard of Hearing Outreach Consultant; Ryan Hawkins, Deafblind Service Coordinator
INTERPRETERS	Tricia Frank, Lynda Remmel, Stephanie Cryer, Nowell Busch, Terri Tupps, Michelle Hoagland, Claudette Mondragon (Remote CART)

Agenda topics

1. INTRODUCTIONS & 2. HOUSEKEEPING

DISCUSSION		
<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Chair Graham-Kelly called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. Linda Taylor, Executive Director for the Center for Independence, welcomed the attendees. <p>Announcements and meeting rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If anyone does not understand the role of any of the commissioner, please feel free to ask during the break. 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. Headsets are available. 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: Access to Health Issues on the Western Slope, John Klish, Bridging Communications Lead and Sheila Worth, Rocky Mountain Health Plans Representative <p>Introductions and Roll Call</p> <p>Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Approval of Minutes from the meeting on June 2, 2017. Discussion: The members of the Nominating Committee were incorrectly listed. After making the correction the minutes were approved.</p>		
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)	
No report at this time		
Anyone interested in serving on the council can contact the CCDHH administrative office.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

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; Lori Goeden, Lucas Marquardt, and Cynde Vaughn, members.		
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. The Committee has received one nomination and is seeking to receive more. Nominations can come from throughout the state.		
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	
Administrator Moers reported that the state has asked all agencies and departments to reduce their budgets by 2%, or \$27,400 of the CCDHH budget. After much review of the CCDHH budget, the proposal was to cut this amount from the grant budget of \$50,000. The decisions about the cuts will be determined in or about November.		
However, there may be other dollars available that could be cut. The grant program is written into the state statute that \$50,000 is to be allocated to the program. To cut this from the budget would require legislative action. The result will be reported at the December meeting.		
Grant Subcommittee Members are Liz Konkell, deaf representative; Arlene Brown Stredler, public representative; Barbara Bryant, hard of hearing representative; Leslie Ralphe, public representative; and Cliff Moers, ex-officio. The Subcommittee will be making the final grant decisions and making the recommendations to the Commissioners for approvals. They will also report on the FY 2017 grants.		

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



DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Present recommendations to Commissioners	Cliff Moers	Prior to Dec meeting

DISCUSSION	Deafblind Task Force, Cynde Vaughn, Commissioner	
Commissioner Vaughn reported that the Task Force met about a month ago in May to determine next steps, now that the Commission is fully staffed. Ryan Odland gave an update on status of the SSP providers.		
The Task Force is moving forward with the community forum to announce what is being done and the services provided. They are looking to make the announcement in November.		
Commissioner Vaughn and the Task Force are pleased and excited with all that has been done over the past four years and they are excited about the next steps.		
DECISIONS		
None at this time		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Community Forum	Task Force	November 2017

DISCUSSION	Hearing Aid Task Force, Lucas Marquardt, Commissioner	
Commissioner Marquardt reported that since the last meeting the over-the-counter hearing aid bill was passed and placed into law. The intention of the bill is to make amplified devices available to people with mild to moderate hearing loss over the counter without a prescription. These devices would cost less. Those with profound hearing loss would still need higher powered hearing aids to be dispensed by an audiologist.		
In the law, Section 2.4, impacts state laws in that it supersedes any state law for the sale and regulation of hearing aids.		
This law impacts the goal of the Committee, which is to require insurance coverage for hearing aids. The law goes into effect over three years. On one hand, the cost of hearing aids is being reduced, but in other cases, insurance coverage may needed for the higher cost hearing aids. We need to see how the roll out for the law impacts the goal.		
Commissioner Marquardt also discussed the need and potential tools for conducting the Commission meetings using remote audio and video technology.		
DECISIONS		
None		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

4. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION
The annual report is in draft form and being reviewed by the Department. When approved, it will be submitted to the General Assembly.
Items reported include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Daylight Partnership to provide mental health services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The relationship is with the Mental Health Center of Denver. There is currently no stable funding for this. • The independent living residential facilities: the Deaf senior citizens coalition has been trying to get funds to build a home for deaf, hard of hearing and Deafblind individuals, but this group has folded, so this was reported. • Another recommendation was for open captioning in movie theaters. The community can notify the



legislature to let them know if this is needed.

- The statutory authority for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Education regarding the infant hearing screening where they screen infants when they are born in hospitals is not ensuring that the third screening is taking place. A group of audiologists and medical professionals have established a coalition to propose legislature to ensure this screening is done. The newborn screening program is funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and no funds are from the state.

There is also technical cleanup of the statute that is long-needed. The Deaf Education issues are also pending.

DECISIONS

None at this time

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Get Department approval and present to legislature

Administrative office

After approval

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CCDHH STATUTE, C.R.S. 26-21-(101-108) AND COURT PROCEDURE STATUTE, C.R.S. 13-90-(201-210)

CLIFF MOERS

DISCUSSION

The proposed amendments to update the Commission statues have been discussed and reviewed several times. The Administrative Office asked the Department of Human Services to bring these forward as one of their bills to be presented at the January session. There was a lot of competition for the various agencies to get their bills presented. End result is that the CCDHH bills will not be presented by the DHS at the next legislative session.

Administrator Moers reported that an individual is willing to try to get the amendments presented, and this person may reach out to the Commissioners for support.

Administrator Moers stated additional updates to the statute may be needed for Grant Subcommittee. It has four members with Cliff Moers as ex-officio. The change is that there would still be five members, but one of the members would represent the deafblind.

We had a suggestion from the floor to include a definition of the term deafblind in the statutes.

The Court Procedure Statue is recommended to be presented a separate bill, and not combined with the Statute. This also need technical cleanup. The main point is to clarify the authority of the CCDHH Legal Auxiliary Services.

DECISIONS

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

If anyone has input for the statutes, please provide this to Cliff

Commissioners

By next meeting

6. DRAFT REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMISSION RE: DEAF EDUCATION

CLIFF MOERS & TIMOTHY CHEVALIER

DISCUSSION

The JBC had requested some research and data for deaf education issues in May for a report due November 1. We needed to identify the top three gaps in deaf education upon their request.

The draft reports includes statistics.

- Of the children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind 25 – 50% have another disability, including physical and mental disabilities. Many of these students drop out.
- In a report from about four years ago, up to 75% of deaf children were performing below the normal range of testing.

The gaps identified in deaf education:

- Deaf students with multiple disabilities
- Data set is small making it difficult to collect and share data; difficult to disaggregate the data for



reporting.

- There is a lack of qualified teachers who are deaf or qualified to teach deaf.

DECISIONS

None at this time

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

It is important to encourage the community to work toward legislative action

Commissioners

ASAP

7. HARD OF HEARING & DEAFBLIND ISSUES

**LUKE ADAMS AND RYAN ODLAND,
OUTREACH CONSULTANTS**

DISCUSSION

Luke Adams is the new Hard of Hearing Outreach Coordinator, and started in June. He presented four issues for hard of hearing people that he will be working on as the Outreach Coordinator.

Isolation, Identity, Inaccessibility, and Inequality. Each of these are issue for people who are hard of hearing that impact the quality of life. He is going to reach out to address these issues and especially work to remove the barriers for inaccessibility and inequality to turn this into accessibility and equality for all who are hard of hearing.

Ryan Odland started in July and is the Deafblind Outreach Coordinator. The main issue he has identified is the lack of awareness of and about the deafblind community. He plans to reach out to service providers and resource providers to make them more aware of the community and their special needs.

He is also looking at the resources for literacy, vocational rehabilitation, and gaining full access to services for people who are deafblind, including web content, transportation, mobile phone apps, and relay services.

DECISIONS

None at this time

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

None

8. WRAP-UP (PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Announcements:

Western Colorado Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America has meetings the first Saturday of the month at the Center for Independence. The next meeting is October 7.

Public Comment:

Comment from John Klish asking for clarification of deaf education presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Beckett