

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
149th Quarterly Commission Meeting
April 22, 2016
Frankfort, Kentucky

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Amy Hatzel, Ms. Nina Coyer, Ms. Rebecca Crawford, Ms. Michelle Niehaus, Ms. Jeannie Taylor, Ms. Kelly Daniel, Ms. Edie Ryan, Ms. Barbie Harris, Ms. Holly O'Mary, Ms. Joy Kiser, Ms. Gerry Gordon-Brown, and Mr. Buddy Hoskinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Michelle Haney and Mr. Bryan Bowen

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Virginia Moore, Ms. Tashina Crowe, and Ms. Rowena Holloway

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Ms. Rachel Morgan, Ms. Marva Johnson and Ms. Laura Kogut

VISITORS: Ms. Jean Haynes and Mr. Ron Haynes

Ms. Amy Hatzel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Hatzel continued with calling roll, due to Ms. Sharon White having left the board. After some technical issues with captioning on the screen, Ms. Hatzel processed with reviewing the minutes from the prior board meeting.

MS. JEANNIE TAYLOR (Ms. Kelly Daniel) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 148th QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel asked members to review the minutes from the last Executive Board meeting.

MS. GERRY GORDON-BROWN (Ms. Jeannie Taylor) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel informed the board that Ms. Virginia Moore had to join via phone, due to a massive amount of traffic and rerouting due to Thunder over Louisville.

REPORTS

Executive Board:

Ms. Hatzel asked members to review the minutes in the packet. She then summarized gaps in services faced by the Child Protection Branch (CPB). KCDHH will continue to monitor the outcome to see how it can influence other cases in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Hatzel also said the board was waiting for the Governor's appointments on expiring terms for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) and the Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA). Ms. Hatzel has received the nominees for HLAA; however, is still waiting on KAD, due to leadership changes, and KSHA. Ms. Moore added that we have spoken with the President of KSHA to

get her nominations in. Ms. Daniel informed the board that she was contacted to be a nominee again and would provide her application and resume to Ms. Crowe today.

Ms. Moore informed those Commissioners whose terms were coming to an end this year that they would continue to hold their seat until the Governor makes his selection.

Ms. Hatzel welcomed the new KAD president board member, Ms. Nina Coyer, and then stated that she herself would be able to serve on the board for two more years since she was elected as president of the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID).

After this Ms. Hatzel told the board that they had received two applications for the Service Provider position; and, although both applicants were highly qualified, the Executive Board felt strongly about recommending Ms. Holly O'Mary's application to the full board for a vote. During discussion, Ms. Gerry Gordon-Brown spoke highly of Ms. O'Mary. Ms. Coyer asked why the Executive Board chose only one candidate and didn't present both applications. Ms. Hatzel spoke for the members and stated that the purpose was to be certain that they were balanced and in accordance with the bylaws. Also, a letter would be sent to those who applied but were not accepted.

MS. GORDON-BROWN (Ms. Ryan) MOTIONED THAT THE BOARD RECOMMEND MS. O'MARY AS THE NEW SERVICE PROVIDER BOARD MEMBER. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel discussed the election of Secretary and explained the responsibilities of that position as keeping the meeting on track, serving as timekeeper when asked, taking minutes and, primarily, checking roll. Ms. Taylor added that this position also assumes the responsibilities of the chair and vice chair in their absences. Ms. Hatzel agreed and added that the Board Secretary position also serves for the Executive Board. Ms. Daniel was nominated and accepted. The board voted and Ms. Daniel be recommended as the Secretary to the full Board.

Agency:

Ms. Moore opened up asking that it be made official to never have a meeting during Derby or Thunder over Louisville.

Budget:

Ms. Moore reported Budget Bill 303 was signed. The Bill will continue to be reviewed line-by-line by the Governor with additions or deletions. Ms. Kiser commented that they are keeping an eye on budgeted amount for the Lexington and Hearing and Speech. Ms. Moore informed the board that justification was given to try and not experience the 4.5 percent and 9 percent budgetary cuts.

Appropriations & Revenue (A&R) Sub Committee Budget Presentation:

Secretary Heiner represents our cabinet and spoke about how he wanted our Workforce and Development to have partners with companies and factories. This would mean that some of our local business, i.e. Toyota, would invest in an individual's education and then would have a job with their company. Ms. Moore added that this would be very beneficial because deaf and hard of hearing people have come to us saying they need jobs. She added that competition is fierce for jobs and if we can get individuals into a technical school

and into a company who has invested, the company will see the student can actually do the job and have a better doorway into acquiring the job.

Ms. Moore also stated that Commissioner Pruitt addressed the A&R about education.

Commissioner Pruitt also held a meeting with the Parent PTA Group from KSD to hear various issues, including school lunches. Ms. Moore said a parent shared with her that the first thing he said in that meeting was he wanted them to know he was the superintendent of both schools, these were his schools and he would not let KSD close. Ms. Moore was also told that he asked for a Task Force to be put into place to see what was taking place. Ms. Barbie Harris added that they have already come into the school to take pictures of what was being served and students are now receiving plenty of food and are actually full.

Ms. Moore explained that we are in the works of setting up a meeting with Commissioner Pruitt to inform him of the hearing screening in mainstreamed schools, our agreement with First Steps and KSD outreach consultants.

Legislation:

Ms. Several million was appropriated so that NG911 can improve equipment to allow for people to text 911 in emergency situations. If a Task Force is developed for NG911, the Commission will offer assistance and advice as the implementation of NG911 continues.

Ms. Holloway added the Telehealth Services Bill was passed to allow people to connect through videophones. Ms. Niehaus asked if it was written that the calls could come from within the home. At this time, Ms. Holloway said the verbiage did not specify but she will look into it and also see who is responsible for writing the regulations and provide our input.

KSD Academic Bowl:

Ms. Moore reported that KSD hosted an academic bowl for 18 different states and a wide gamete of communication styles coming together to compete. There were interpreters, captioners and even the current President of Gallaudet, Dr. "Bobbi" Cordano, was in attendance. She and Ms. Moore carved out time to discuss current issues facing Kentucky including not enough deaf teachers, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) having a moratorium on testing and mental health. They talked about possible solutions to all.

DeaFestival:

Ms. Moore explained how plans for 2016 DeaFestival are progressing and that the theme is going to be Wizard of Oz. The theme from Wizard of Oz will be adapted to show acceptance and diversity among deaf and hard of hearing students. The date is September 3 at the Kentucky Center.

VLOGS:

Ms. Moore discussed creating a VLOG about the caucus for the Republican Party so that all had an opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Moratorium:

RID announced they will begin accepting payment for the National Interpreter Certification Performance Exam (NIC) on July 1. A testing date has not yet been set. Ms. Moore added that, RID recently sent out a survey to interpreters for input on how they should change the

test, indicating the test is valid and they would not be changing the test, based on the surveys but just wanted to know if they should change the test. In order to provide options for national testing, the state has begun to work with Texas in accepting the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI). Ms. Coyer commented that deaf individuals who want to become certified through RID must wait until 2018 for a new test in order to become a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI). Ms. Moore replied that KCDHH is working with License and Occupations Interpreting regulations to include Deaf Interpreter (DI) instead of a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) until testing is available on a national level. Individuals wishing to be recognized as a DI would still take the SLPI and need to attend workshops to have a temporary license.

Lexington Bluegrass Airport:

Ms. Moore informed the Commissioners that the Lexington Bluegrass Airport has reached out to us again to assist in aiding the communication access. Some staff went on a tour and advised them of appropriate signage ideas and talked about the iPad being a great tool at both gates. We are hoping that Louisville and the Northern Kentucky airports will follow what Lexington is doing.

Southeastern Medical Interpreters Association:

Ms. Moore reported that the Southeastern Medical Interpreters Association (SEMIA) is a group of people from Kentucky One Health and University of Kentucky Health, who are coming together to see how they can improve access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The goal is to make a series of videos about educating the community on how to access the services they need. Ms. Ryan told of a call she received in regards to a woman chasing out a nurse because she didn't want to use Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) while she was in labor. Ms. Moore also added that Ms. Niehaus is working with HLAA to produce kits for hospitals and that they may pair nicely with this series. Ms. Niehaus said the kits have been renamed to Medical Communication Kit because we want people to be able to use it in hospitals, as well as regular appointments with their doctors. The kits are still being developed with 100 kits going to each of the four chapters currently active for HLAA Kentucky and another 100 kits coming to Ms. Niehaus' office for distribution.

Ms. Moore also told of her plan to have Town Hall meetings throughout the state. Specific details have yet to be determined. Topics will include self-advocating and interpreters pricing themselves out of the market with doctor offices and hospitals.

Ms. Moore updated the board that Ms. Rachel Rodgers had her daughter on Saint Patrick's and has since been on maternity leave.

Ms. Coyer wanted to add her praise for the Commission after she recently went to the Arizona Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and felt we are ahead of the game with all the resources we provide.

Finance:

Ms. Moore summarized the agency's financial report stating that the budget is on target and there is no overspending or underspending in any one area. KCDHH will have to "tighten its belt" this remainder of this fiscal year with the one time, 4.5 percent budget cut that happened. The Commission is able to use the monies for the vacancy credit in order to level out. However, the next fiscal year cut for 16-17 and 17-18 will be 9 percent each year.

Ms. Moore also mentioned that Sprint is no longer our Relay provider and that Hamilton won the bid for the next four years and we are hoping to work out great partnerships with them.

Strategic Plan:

Ms. Moore explained the Strategic Plan documents. There are two documents with one being an overall view of the goals like the one on the website. The other version shows the goal, course of action and the targeted results from those actions. The key is how our Agency Report reflects the Strategic Plan to show that we are making headway. Ms. Moore and Ms. Hatzel told the board of a retreat planned allowing those members that wanted to participate could to assist in revising the proposed plan. Ms. Hatzel expressed that this would just be an all-day meeting due to the budget cuts and feels that it could be done in a day's time. The board agreed to meet on Thursday, June 23rd, the day prior to the Executive board meeting, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Frankfort. Ms. Niehaus asked how we tracked numbers and Ms. Moore stated that our database is our tool. Ms. Gordon-Brown expressed concern because June 23rd is the start of the HLAA Conference. Ms. Moore understood her conflict in schedule and said she was unable to attend but plans on sending two other staff members.

Kentucky Teachers Newsletter:

Ms. Moore discussed an article on the Commission assisting Kentucky schools in American Sign Language that was published in the Kentucky Teacher, an online newsletter. She said the article has generated several requests for resources. She added that it is a goal to get American Sign Language in K thru 12 settings to count toward a foreign language.

THE AGENCY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

The K-12 Educational Study Group:

Ms. Hatzel reported on the study groups' performance for the year stating the group has submitted a new proposal to continue the study group. She also reported that they have been able to meet the goals set forth in last year's proposal, made strides in awareness, brought information and collected data on what types of hearing screenings are being performed and the implementation of training for First Steps. She said the group is excited to see where this progress will lead Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness (SERCD) in meeting and working with these families.

Ms. Moore added that KCDHH is waiting to hear from Commissioner Pruitt on a specific meeting date regarding this information while making him aware of the potential lack of leadership by SERCD as well.

Access to Videophones in Public Libraries/ Captioning in Sport Venues Study Groups:

Ms. Hatzel spoke on behalf of the other two study groups: videophones in libraries and captioning for sports venues. During the executive board meeting, Ms. Hatzel said Ms. Sharon White was with the Commission at that time and had stated her confidence in the videophone study group not being renewed due to the success it is having and the feeling

that the libraries would be able to handle it on their own now. For the captioning in sports venue study group, the executive board felt the issue could be addressed in other ways rather than having a dedicated study group.

Closing reports for both studies will be presented at the 150th Commission meeting.

Unfinished Business:

The board reviewed the 147th Commission meeting minutes, and Ms. Hatzel explained that the board was voting today, due to lack of quorum at the previous board meeting.

MS. RYAN (Ms. Kiser) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE 147th QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED.

Following, the board read the minutes from the December 11th Executive board meeting.

MS. DANIEL (Ms. Taylor) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FROM DECEMBER 11, 2015. THE MOTION PASSED.

Lastly, for review and voting purposes were the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Advisory Board minutes.

MS. TAYLOR (Ms. Ryan) MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE TAP ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2016. THE MOTION PASSED.

New Business:

Ms. Hatzel informed the board that the TAP Advisory Board would like to recommend that Ms. Becky Crawford continue her position as chair. Ms. Crawford affirmed that she would like to continue her service.

MS. RYAN (Ms. Kiser) MOTIONED MS. CRAWFORD CONTINUES IN THIS POSITION. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel said the board needed to make a formal decision to relieve Ms. Michelle Haney of her obligations as parent representative for the board. The reason for the dismissal is lack of attendance, a requirement of the board's by-laws. Other board members agreed.

MS. DANIEL (Ms. Nina Coyer) MOTIONED THAT THE BOARD DISMISS THE CURRENT PARENT REPRESENTATIVE AND LOOK FOR A REPLACEMENT. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Moore added that she feels KCDHH will have a good applicant pool for this position, due to parent groups that are very active in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Hatzel opened the floor to discuss continuing, ending and proposals for new study groups. Ms. Niehaus began with her proposal for a study group that focuses on services for the deaf and hard of hearing senior citizens. There have been noticeable increases in calls concerning these individuals by herself, the Commission, and potentially Vocational Rehabilitation. The issue is going into nursing homes, or home health care, where they do

not have access to language and may deal with isolation. The goal of this proposal is to bring together stakeholders to make people aware of the resources currently available, identify gaps in service delivery and come up with ways to resolve those and, lastly, mobilize the stakeholders to work for a change. Ms. Hatzel opened the floor for discussion for this study group. Ms. Ryan mentioned that a previous study group similar to this had been done and that, hopefully, some of that information could assist her proposal, because the Commission's liaison had been in contact with the Ombudsman. Ms. Coyer pointed out that from her experience as a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI,) there is a growing need for this population. There was a brief discussion on changing the name. Ms. Hatzel pointed out that it would be best to get the study group up and running, then determine a name.

MS. GORDON-BROWN (Ms. Taylor) MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THIS STUDY GROUP. THE MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Hatzel read another proposal submitted by the current K thru 12 study group. They have requested an extension to examine the practices and policies regarding all students with hearing loss with a goal of facilitating the incorporation and establishment of a deaf child's bill of rights. They listed three objectives to meet this goal: 1) identify and assemble stakeholders from oral, mainstream and residential settings; 2) establish a core work group comprised of representatives of those groups; and 3) develop a tentative plan of action for the establishment of the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights in Kentucky. The group wants to focus more on this avenue than that of Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) for Kentucky so that this step can guide them into dealing with LEAD-K. Ms. Ryan voiced her interest in having some type of involvement with this group since she accepted the position of region three representative for educational interpreters.

MS. TAYLOR (Ms. Ryan) MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THIS STUDY GROUP. THE MOTION PASSED.

After the motion was passed, there was further discussion about having workshops/trainings to provide for the core members. Ms. Niehaus offered her father, a professional lobbyist, as a trainer.

Ms. Moore added that those study groups that had been approved needed to see Ms. Crowe for a form that needs to be completed and returned before the next Commission meeting.

BOARD OPEN FORUM

Ms. Niehaus announced there will be the second System of Care Academy on June 8-10, in Lexington at the Marriott Griffin Gate. The conference will feature a track on deaf and hard of hearing, focusing on developing and sustaining services for people who have behavioral health needs, especially children. The primary goal is to bring in stakeholders on June 10 to hear national presenters from the Learning Center for Deaf Children talk about how they established and maintain specialized mental health services, how they work with managed care organizations, how they work with state agencies (including their department of community-based services and child protection) and how they established case management, in-home services and a variety of other topics. Ms. Niehaus said registration is free and an opportunity to see how we make it happen in Kentucky. Ms. Coyer told the group she attended last year and that it was a positive experience and encouraged the

board to participate. Ms. Coyer will also be leading a panel this year. Ms. Hatzel also said that the conference will be well worth the time for people to attend. She added that there will be a breakout sessions on serving children and youth who are hard of hearing, a session on serving children and youth who are deaf and use ASL, a session on the Department of Community-Based Services partnership that is being developed, a session on the perspectives of a parent and a youth who have experienced mental health treatment in Kentucky and a session with the school psychologist from KSD talking about what it really takes to serve kids who are deaf or hard of hearing in a behavioral healthcare setting.

Ms. Moore announced that she had been informed by Ms. Erin Schilling, there would be one-on-one training for DUI. Ms. Neihaus stated her Department pays for interpreters for DUI and that Ms. Amy Day is the provider in the Lexington, Lawrenceburg, Winchester area and Ms. Schilling is the provider for the seven counties area. Ms. Moore asked if Ms. Neihaus' office would consider adding domestic violence or anger management. Ms. Neihaus, stated they have four therapists serving two regions. They are hiring a deaf individual to provide part-time case management in London, Corbin and Somerset.

Ms. Ryan announced that the Region III Interpreter Conference will be in Louisville the week following the 150th Commission Board Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Executive Board meeting will be held Friday, June 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the KCDHH office in Frankfort; and
- The 150th Quarterly Commission meeting will be held Friday, July 22, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. with the location TBA.

MS. DANIEL (Ms. Niehaus) MOVED TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.