

*Agency Report July 1st through
September 30, 2013*



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*Submitted by:
Virginia L. Moore*

KCDHH Quarterly Activities

July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

Personnel

The Agency is fully staffed with the hiring of the Document Processing Specialist I and the Interpreter II.

Legislation and Regulations

KCDHH's legislative initiatives for the 2014 General Assembly session are:

- Require mandatory screening for school age children prior to entry in kindergarten, fourth year, and eighth year, to mirror requirements for dental and eye exams. This would require working with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) on legislation to change the statute requiring screening for a hearing loss and regulatory changes if the legislation passes the General Assembly.
- Require audiologists to provide information regarding KCDHH services to clients they serve.
- Require insurance companies to assist with purchase of hearing aids for adults.
- Require nursing homes to screen residents for hearing loss and include in the patients plan of care and provide accommodations as required.

KCDHH met with KDE staff to further the goal of including hearing screening for children in school entrance requirements. The Governor's Office asked Secretary Zawacki to include this initiative in the Cabinet's legislative priorities, and legislation was drafted and submitted to the Cabinet.

AT&T legislative staff met with the Executive Director and the Internal Policy Analyst III to discuss legislation they plan to introduce during the 2013 session, to change their services to digital wireless. According to AT&T the change would not adversely affect rural areas, as landline phones, digital phones, VoIP and internet access would continue to work through the electrical wiring in a home and bounce off a WiFi tower. States surrounding Kentucky have already implemented this protocol. Customers would have the option of switching back to wired lines after a 30-day trial if they are not satisfied with the service. The bill is being sponsored by Senator Paul Hornback.

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) application has been revised and regulatory changes are required to update it by reference and make other clarifying changes. Amendments are in the draft process and are to be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission in the next quarter.

Staff reviewed the Administrative Regulation amendments proposed during August, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services regarding payments for services, the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program eligibility requirements and licensure requirements for the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Amendments had no impact on our services, programs or the community we serve.

Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) and the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID) Fall Conference



For the first time in their respective histories, KAD and the KyRID held a joint conference on September 12-14 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, with the theme “We Rise with Collaboration.” The Executive Director and various staff attended multiple workshops. The Executive Director attended the KAD Board meeting and made a motion, which passed, to hold joint conferences biennially. KAD agreed to adjust their Saturday Board meeting to another day so that interpreters would not have to choose between obtaining Continuing Education Units (CEU) for licensure and attending the KAD functions.

The President of the National Association of the Deaf and the President of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf both provided keynote presentations regarding collaboration between the deaf community and the interpreters that work within the community and how common bonds can strengthen both organizations and their missions. Marvin Miller provided a presentation regarding Deaf Culture and the transition it is facing in today's society called Deafhood. Austin W. Andrews presented one of the workshops that received the most positive feedback from all attendees, which enlightened and educated all on the strength of American Sign Language (ASL) as a unique language.

KCDHH sponsored the joint conference and provided an information booth. The Executive Secretary II was part of the conference planning committee and helped design the program book. KCDHH worked with KAD and KyRID to ensure that the conference was fully accessible to everyone, with Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), FM systems and ASL interpreters.

Louisville Association of the Deaf (LAD) 90th Anniversary



LAD held its 90th anniversary celebration September 7 at the American Legion Post 220 in Louisville, with more than 350 in attendance, a large crowd. The Executive Director served as co-emcee for the occasion while other staff provided an information booth and attended in support. During the opening ceremony, special guests included Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, U.S. Representative John Yarmuth, State Senator Perry Clark, Commonwealth Attorney Thomas Wine and other Jefferson County officials. In addition, the University of Louisville (UL) Interpreter Training Program (ITP) department collaborated with LAD to offer a “Norma Lewis Scholarship” for students in the ITP or for deaf individuals attending college courses at UL. This is in addition to scholarships already offered by the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf under Norma Lewis's name.

Kentucky Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference Planning

The Executive Staff Advisor attended a meeting in September with several Kentucky EHDI professionals to discuss the plan to hold the conference in Kentucky during 2014. KCDHH provided seed monies because of the 2012 conference and entered into an agreement to host the conference in 2014. The conference will focus on reaching out to pediatric audiologists in order to emphasize the importance of newborn hearing screening and reducing the

number of babies that never receive follow-up exams. The conference is tentatively set for November 2014 at the University of Kentucky. The group members will independently create a list of potential presenters and topics and will meet again within the next quarter.

National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) Conference

The Executive Director attended the NASRA conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 25-28. NASRA provides information regarding regulatory changes made by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to telecommunication relay services. FCC representatives presented regarding the new rulemaking for IP-Captioned relay services, which are effective September 30. States have been asked to provide comments to the rulemaking by October 18. Changes include; disallowing marketing practices such as incentives to encourage consumers to switch to certain service providers, mandating a \$75 payment for any equipment provided, verifying disability prior to obtaining equipment, including registration of each device by the consumer, and caption defaults set in place last spring on devices distributed which prevent inadvertent abuse of the captioned relay service. Other workshops included information on Video Relay Services, the Telecommunications Relay Services fund updates, text to 911 services, VoIP service issues, speech to speech issues and captioned telephone services audits and concerns expressed by providers. The information obtained was very beneficial to the operation of the Telecommunications Access Program within KCDHH and will help us advise consumers of requirements prior to receiving such equipment.

Hearing Loss Association of America-Kentucky Chapters Conference



The Hearing Loss Association of America-Kentucky Chapters (HLAA-KY) held its first regional conference July 19-20 in Louisville. More than 250 people attended the conference, which was a collaborative effort between KCDHH and the HLAA Kentucky Chapters. Because of the success of numerous productions of DeaFestival Kentucky, HLAA-KY asked KCDHH to assist with planning, promoting, coordinating accessibility and providing the experience on how to plan a conference. Ms. Kathy Buckley was the guest speaker and captivated the audience not only through her comedy act, but also in how she deals with her own hearing loss, and supports a foundation for children called “No

Limits”. The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Internal Policy Analyst III lent their professional expertise to the conference, giving well-attended presentations. In addition, the Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist were instrumental in working with conference organizers and the volunteers of HLAA-KY did a phenomenal job of executing this inaugural conference. Many valuable workshops were provided, and the feedback from the after conference correspondence showed it was a great success.

KCDHH GOALS



KCDHH Goal I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including communication services and access to human services.

National Interview Certification (NIC) Migration

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) has contracted with a third party agency to administer the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and National Interpreter Certification (NIC) performance exams at their network of testing sites, using an Internet-based application. The new platform has yet to be implemented, so RID has asked that KCDHH continue to provide testing as a supersite until implementation is completed. The agency has reached out to KCDHH to be part of the new system and we have requested additional information to see if we can continue to serve as a testing site. After the migration, KCDHH will continue offering the other RID certification exams such as the SC:L written, SC:L performance, Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) written and performance.

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Testing Slots

Per agency mandates, KCDHH annually provides national certification opportunities for interpreters within the Commonwealth. At the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID) and Kentucky Association of the Deaf (KAD) joint conference in September, it was announced that testing slot stipends for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)/National Interpreter Certification (NIC) performance exam would be offered again this year to qualified applicants. The deadline to apply is November 19.

KCDHH Supersite

KCDHH offered four National Interpreter Certification (NIC) performance exams during the quarter, a drop from the last quarter, as the demand for testing has diminished since the requirements for eligibility for testing changed. With the new third party system in place in other states, individuals do not need to travel as far to take performance exams now.

Access Center Assignments

Requests	Filled /pending Assignments	Cancelled Assignments	Interpreting Hours	Average # of contacts per assignment request
AC: Request for Interpreting	116	3	660	12
AC: Request for Captioning	7	0	33	10
AC:Request for Videoconference	2	0	-	2

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Update

TAP received numerous applications for the new signaler package recently added to the program, but overall applications are leveling off. New communication technology is being considered for addition to the program to meet the needs of all consumers. The TAP Public Relations campaign is escalating and the "It's For You" billboards went up in Eastern and Western Kentucky during September.

TAP Overall Activities

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
TAP: Applying for STE	201	278	98

We began collecting information on how TAP requests are generated in January 2013. This allows us to better track the success of various public relations outreach efforts. *Of those consumers that choose to provide this information, the results for this quarter are listed below:*

Method of Referral	Number Received
Applied before	2
TV advertisement	4
Outreach	16
Friend referred	4
Website	2
Newsletter	5
Facebook	0
Referral from another agency	12
Other	6
Billboards	0

Public Relations Campaign for Telecommunications Access Program

KCDHH has contracted with a public relations (PR) agency in Louisville to assist with promoting the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) and KCDHH as a whole. This agency secured two billboard sites, one in Eastern Kentucky in Pikeville and one on the Western Kentucky Parkway near Caldwell. Photographs of both billboards are included. The billboards will remain up through August 1, 2014 (Western Kentucky), and May 1, 2014 (Eastern Kentucky). On August 23, the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Internal Policy Analyst III and Information Office Supervisor met with a representative of the Kentucky Alliance for Radio and Television (KART) regarding a radio advertising campaign to promote KCDHH and TAP. Staff provided a summary of KCDHH's mission and goals for the PR campaign and the agency produced a radio script. Once approved, the radio ad began airing September 15 to run through October 15 on approximately 150 radio stations throughout the state, although because of the informational nature of our ad, many stations were going to continue airing it through the end of October as a bonus.

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Internal Policy Analyst III and Information Office Supervisor also met with The Kentucky Press Service (KPS) on August 26 to discuss print advertising options. In addition to advertising in 48 selected newspapers during December, we also discussed the possibility of running a smaller ad in all 108 Kentucky Press Association (KPA) member newspapers during Thanksgiving week due to it being very high circulation times for newspapers because of holiday advertisements. In order for us to gauge the success of this campaign, staff members taking phone calls for requests are asking consumers where they heard about KCDHH.



KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a hub of current information from local, state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.

Public Relations Output

The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by the agency. PR items disseminated include any information pertaining to the agency and its services, or promotional items used to attract consumers to a booth display. **58,670** information and PR items were distributed during the quarter as follows:

Date	Type of Outreach	Topic of Public Relations Announcements and Outreach Activities	# Items Distributed
07/10/13	Facebook	Rachel Kolb shares her exploration of the value of flexibility in transmitting ideas	1,023
07/10/13	Facebook	SIPRelay® service will permanently cease on July 31, 2013	1,024
07/18/13	Facebook	Justin LeBlanc - a deaf designer will be on Project Runway tonight.	1,028
07/19/13	Facebook	KCDHH is at the Hearing Loss Association of America KY regional conference.	1,029
07/19/13	Outreach	HCAA Regional conference.	900
07/22/13	Facebook	Mark your calendar! July 26 is dedicated to Celebrate 23 years of ADA	1,030
07/22/13	Facebook	Information about ADA anniversary and ADA Toolkit.	1,032
07/23/13	Facebook	Volunteers needed for the State Fair in Louisville Aug 15 -25.	1,035
07/25/13	Facebook	Kentucky ranked #2 in the US with number of persons living with disabilities.	1,038
07/25/13	Facebook	Census Bureau: Household Economic incomes of Persons living with Disability	1,040
07/25/13	Facebook	7.6 million people 15 and older has had a hearing difficulty.	1,040
07/25/13	Facebook	23% of people with a disability live below poverty line.	1,040
07/25/13	Facebook	33% of the non-institutionalized population, 18- 64 with a disability are employed.	1,040
07/26/13	Outreach	Infant Toddler Institute Conference in Lexington.	850
08/03/13	Outreach	KSD Alumni Convention.	800
08/03/13	Outreach	Park Duvalle Health Fair.	710
08/05/13	Facebook	See what the Hearing Loss of Association - Kentucky Chapters is saying	1,045
08/10/13	Outreach	KY and TN Regional Kiwanis Meeting.	250
08/08/13	Facebook	American Funniest CODA is coming to Louisville.	1,046
08/13/13	Facebook	Breaking: White House officially, recognized American Sign Language.	1,048
08/15/13	Facebook	STATE FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA: Tons of exciting PR stuffs to be given away	1,048
08/15/13	Facebook	KCDHH is at the Northern Kentucky Senior Expo today at Newport	1,048
08/16/13	Facebook	Federal Hiring Rule for Person with Disabilities is bracing for a change.	1,049
08/15/13	Outreach	Kentucky State Fair.	10,780
08/15/13	Outreach	Northern Kentucky Senior Citizen Expo.	550
08/22/13	Facebook	Louisville Association of the Deaf will celebrate 90th Anniversary	1,050
08/28/13	Facebook	Purple Communications is coming to Kentucky	1,051
09/02/13	Outreach	Labor Day Festival.	590
09/04/13	Facebook	September is National Preparedness Month	1,052
09/04/13	Facebook	Rustic Lantern Presents Lake Windfall – an ASL film	1,053
09/06/13	Facebook	Hands & Voices Trivia Night Fundraiser	1,055
09/07/13	Outreach	Louisville Association of the Deaf Conference.	1,775
09/09/13	Facebook	Free Deaf Social Bingo at Community Fellowship Baptist Church	1,057
09/09/13	Facebook	Duck Dynasty event will be interpreted by Rita Zirnheld and Lisa LeDonne	1,057
09/10/13	Facebook	Louisville Association of the Deaf 90th Anniversary Celebration	1,058
09/10/13	Facebook	FCC explains new proposed rules governing VRS	1,060
09/11/13	Eblitz	Communicator newsletter – electronic	3,253
09/11/13	Mailing	Communicator newsletter - hardcopy	900
09/12/13	Facebook	Telecommunication Access Program – “It’s For YOU” billboard announcement	1,061
09/13/13	Facebook	2013 KAD/KYRID Joint Conference photos	1,062
09/13/13	Outreach	KAD/KYRID Conference.	665
09/17/13	Facebook	On this date in history, deaf astronomer John Goodricke was born	1,064
09/18/13	Eblitz	Free RID testing slots	120
09/19/13	Facebook	Vote for Jacobs Hall in KETs 50 Most Important and Historic Buildings	1,066
09/19/13	Eblitz	Vote for Jacobs Hall in KETs 50 Most Important and Historic Buildings	1,361
09/26/13	Outreach	BBQ on the River, Paducah, KY	1,050
09/26/13	Facebook	On this date 22 yrs ago first major TV show featured a deaf person in lead role	1,067
09/29/13	Outreach	Bardstown Health Fairs.	100
09/29/13	Outreach	Ideas for Life Expo.	520
TOTAL			58,670

Library

The KCDHH Deaf Resource Library is currently in the process of migrating to a new format. This format will be user friendly to the public as well as the individuals who run it. Once completed the library web will be much easier to browse and use. New materials have been ordered to keep the library current.

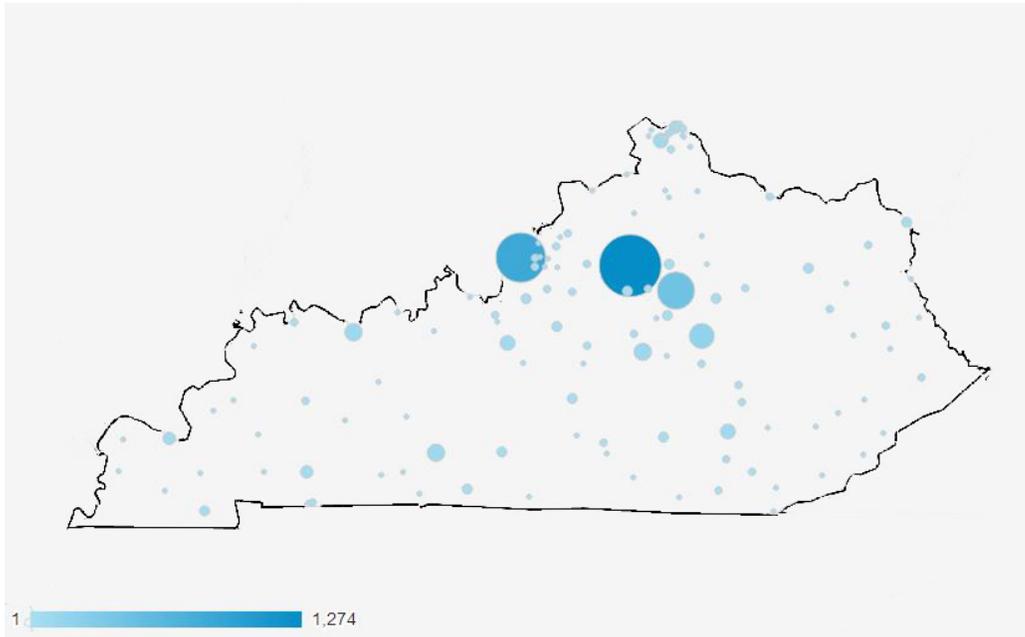
Information and Referral Requests

The Office of Information Services received 5,323 new contacts and 1,471 new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

Nature	Contacts	Closed Requests	Pending Requests
AC: Request for Captioner	72	6	1
AC: Request for Interpreter	1,471	89	27
AC: Request for Videoconferencing	4	2	-
Administration	42	8	
DeaFestival	10	8	-
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	61	28	-
IRA: Deaf Culture	8	3	-
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	375	172	1
I09/09/13RA: Demographics & Statistics	5	2	-
IRA: Education	6	1	1
IRA: Employment	9	4	-
IRA: Families & Children	17	7	-
IRA: Human Services	77	31	
IRA: Interpreting	38	14	1
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	170	26	1
IRA: Outreach	43	16	1
IRA: Senior Citizens	6	2	-
IRA: Technology	28	12	-
Library	23	7	-
PUB: Communicator	49	24	-
PUB: Directory of Services	8	3	-
PUB: Visor Cards	88	33	-
TAP: Outreach	4	1	-
TAP: Received Application for STE	1,376	147	166
TAP: Repair	22	6	1
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	1,183	583	4
TAP: TAP ISSUES	128	27	5
TOTALS	5,323	1,262	209

KCDHH Web Counter Hits: July 1, 2013 - September 30, 2013

The following image depicts the various cities and towns throughout Kentucky from which visitors visited our Web site. The bigger the circle, the more visits from the area that the circle represents.



The following image lists the top 10 Kentucky cities from which visitors visited our Web site from, the top 10 countries in the world from which visitors visited from and the top 10 pages of our Web site that they viewed. We have had a total of 4,271 visitors from Kentuckians this quarter which represents a slight decrease in visitors from the previous quarter.

Top Ten Visitor Cities in Kentucky		Top Ten Visitor Countries in World		Top Ten Pages Visitors Viewed	
City	Visits ? ↓	Country / Territory	Visits ? ↓	Page Title	Pageviews ? ↓
	4,271 % of Total: 66.74% (6,399)		6,399 % of Total: 100.00% (6,399)		14,126 % of Total: 100.00% (14,126)
1. Frankfort	1,274	1. United States	6,186	1. KCDHH: Home	4,036
2. Louisville	836	2. India	26	2. KCDHH: Request Forms	1,237
3. Lexington	443	3. Australia	24	3. KCDHH: Sign Language Information	736
4. Richmond	184	4. United Kingdom	23	4. Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing DeaFestival Page	705
5. Danville	105	5. (not set)	15	5. KCDHH: Calendar of Events	635
6. Owensboro	99	6. Canada	8	6. KCDHH: TAP	571
7. Bowling Green	94	7. Egypt	8	7. KCDHH: Equipment List	564
8. Florence	77	8. France	7	8. KCDHH: Bulletin	417
9. London	73	9. Philippines	6	9. KCDHH: Staff	408
10. Elizabethtown	61	10. Germany	5	10. KCDHH: How to Apply	369

Annual Infant Toddler Institute

Both Information Coordinators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the annual Infant Toddler Institute on July 25-26 at the Lexington Convention Center. The Interpreter I provided services at the KCDHH booth. This event, hosted for professionals and individuals who work with infants and toddlers, had 300 in attendance. Vendors and organizations that work with these consumers attended, and a variety of presentations allowed attendees to acquire valuable knowledge. KCDHH provided information about the agency's services and programs.

Northern Kentucky Senior Citizens Expo

The Information Office Supervisor and Administrative Specialist II attended the Northern Kentucky Senior Citizens Expo on August 15 at Newport on the Levee. The agency's booth featured several devices available through the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). Information on the new smoke detector signaling package available through TAP was explained. More than 500 individuals from the Northern Kentucky area attended.

Park Duvalle Health Fair

The Administrative Specialist II, Document Processing Specialist II, and Interpreter I attended the Community Health Fair at the Park Duvalle Community Center on August 3. The booth displayed TAP equipment, application information and KCDHH flyers. An audiologist gave hearing screening in the booth next to KDCHH and that provided us an opportunity to reach out to the public about our programs and resources.

Kentucky State Fair

KCDHH was proud, once again, to participate in the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville. KCDHH distributed a wide variety of information about the agency's programs and services. Demonstrations of equipment available through the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) were provided to give the public an opportunity to experience how a device can help someone with a hearing loss. Sprint partnered with KCDHH to provide information regarding the Relay Service and IP captioning services. The booth was very successful. KCDHH received more than 250 requests and handled them quickly. Heuser Hearing Institute (HHI), which also collaborated in this outreach, closed the hearing screening booth at 6pm, leaving KCDHH to answer questions from patrons. Staggering hours to keep the booth open longer in the evenings may help solve this problem.

Barbeque on the River

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended Barbeque on the River September 26-28 in Paducah. This event targets all ages with a variety of vendors and non-vendors. This is the second year KCDHH has participated in this event, and a booth was set up with information about the agency, the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and Hands & Voices. Many members of the community and parents of deaf and hard of hearing children stopped by the booth for information. One Commissioner also worked the booth Friday night and all day Saturday. Approximately 10,000 people attended the event.

Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Weekend Picnic

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Program Coordinator attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Alumni Weekend Picnic August 3-4 at the KSD campus and demonstrated equipment available through TAP. At a simultaneous event, nine athletes were inducted into the Hall of Fame for their outstanding contributions to KSD.

Ideas for Life Expo

The Document Processing Specialist II and Staff Interpreter I attended and set up a booth for the Ideas for Life Expo September 29 at Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort, which was sponsored by Frankfort Regional Medical Center. This event targeted senior citizens, people who are involved in their care, and family members who want to gather information. KCDHH disseminated information regarding the agency's programs and services.



KCDHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, governmental agencies, public and private entities.

EDUCATION:

Kentucky School for the Deaf Outreach as First Steps Providers

The Executive Director and Executive Staff Advisor met with staff at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to discuss how the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) outreach staff can become First Steps providers. The Executive Director talked about the Task Force and AIR reports and how KSD is recognized as the Statewide Resource Center on Deafness. She emphasized the importance of having their expertise available to the First Steps system. KDE staff agreed, but wants to meet with internal staff in the Office of Next-Generation Learners, Division of Program Standards to get input from those agencies before addressing KCDHH's concerns. KDE plans to work with the Division of Budget Management to make sure there will be no issues with paying for the services. KDE was provided with a copy of the Alice Cogswell Act and explained how deaf and hard of hearing students are being improperly identified if they have additional disabilities. KDE is working to fix their system so that any child that has multiple disabilities will have all of their disabilities identified. Staff mentioned that they could tell us how many students in Kentucky are currently identified as eligible for special education services based on a hearing loss. We discussed students losing services because they have met their goals and KDE staff said it is due to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) stating that students are eligible for services as long as their disability has an adverse effect on their ability to learn. It is something that each student has to make a case for based on their situation, if services are stopped once they reach a goal. KDE's philosophy is that "Special Education is NOT a place, it IS a service." They asked for recommendations of who may be interested in being on the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children, and stated they would like to see someone who is deaf or hard of hearing on that panel.

Deaf Child's Bill of Rights (DCBR)

The Executive Staff Advisor met with the Executive Director of Hands & Voices at their headquarters in Boulder, Colorado. Discussion included the possibility of Kentucky legislatively pursuing a Deaf Child's Bill of Rights (DCBR) and approaches the Kentucky Hands & Voices *Guide By Your Side* Program could use for sustainable funding.

Kentucky Functional Needs Collaborative Meeting

The Information Office Supervisor represented KCDHH at the Kentucky Functional Needs Collaborative meeting in July. Among the agenda items; was a discussion on Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) that would be activated in the event of a disaster and how they would determine which individuals in emergency shelters had functional or communications access needs. Ninety-four people have already undergone FAST training in Kentucky, and the teams are aware of the communications access needs of our population. Staff with the Kentucky Department of Public Health will check on the availability of telecommunications equipment available in shelters and KCDHH will provide shelter kits if needed.

WAVE 3 Real-Time Captioning

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Information Office Supervisor met with staff from Louisville's WAVE 3 News to discuss the need for Real-Time Captioning for live news broadcasts. We shared statistics and discussed why this is so critical to the 650,000 deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Kentucky, especially during emergencies. They explained that they are seeking sponsors in order to provide this kind of service. After the meeting, they filmed the Executive Staff Advisor as she shared a personal story related to her experience during inclement weather and how captioned news would have allowed her, as a deaf individual, to be better prepared. This footage will be utilized to encourage potential sponsors, and put a face on the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky Multi-Agency Forum

The Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist presented at the Eastern Kentucky Multi-Agency Forum in Lexington. Representatives from Guardianship Services, Adult Protective Services, Office of the Attorney General, Long Term Care Ombudsmen, Public Health, Department for Aging and Independent Living, Consumer Directed Options, Various Medicaid Waiver service programs, Office of Inspector General and Legal Services attended. The goal of the presentation was to educate those organizations who work with the elderly about hearing loss, deafness and the services that are required to be provided by law. KCDHH also discussed how these agencies can better serve our population, and provided them with resources for future needs. The agency received tremendously positive feedback about the presentation and has been asked to present at the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman's conference. Educating and advocating for a systematic change to the approach for dealing with the needs of seniors is the goal of the Nursing Home study group and this presentation helped meet that goal and ensure accessibility and provision of appropriate accommodations in LTC facilities.



KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, education, awareness, as well as programs and services to foster informed cultural and linguistic choices.

Interview with Courier-Journal Health Reporter

The Executive Director, Internal Policy Analyst III and Information Office Supervisor participated in an interview with a Courier-Journal health reporter on July 15, in advance of the Hearing Loss Association of America-Kentucky Chapters regional conference in Louisville. Staff used the opportunity to promote the Telecommunications Access Program, especially the new signaling package, and to talk about hearing loss and how it affects more than 650,000 Kentuckians. The article was published July 17 in print and online.

Hearing Loss Association of America's Bowling Green Chapter Meeting



The Information Office Supervisor represented KCDHH at the Hearing Loss Association of America's Bowling Green Chapter meeting on August 6. It was that chapter's first as a nationally recognized active chapter of HLAA. The Information Office Supervisor discussed the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), and specifically the new smoke detector signaling package. Our presentation complimented another, given by the public affairs officer for the Bowling Green Fire Department. They discussed fire safety in the home and answered questions from attendees about hearing loss and emergencies. About 35 people attended.

Meeting with Heritage Hospice

On September 26, the Interpreter Referral Specialist along with 15 other deaf community members met with staff from Heritage Hospice in Danville. Discussions included how Heritage Hospice could improve its outreach to the deaf community and educate them about hospice and the service it provides. Heritage Hospice has not seen any requests from the deaf community for hospice services in the past three years. The members in attendance discussed different ways that Heritage Hospice can reach out to the deaf community such as attending Deaf Expo in Louisville, collaborating with KCDHH to develop a Vlog on what Hospice is and the services it provides, attending local churches, and deaf luncheons.

Hands & Voices Trivia Night Fundraising Event

The Executive Staff Advisor (ESA) and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the first annual Hands & Voices Trivia Night fundraising event. The ESA gave a short presentation about the importance of reaching families with deaf and hard of hearing children as early as possible. KCDHH sponsored a table and shared seats with others in the community. The event was a huge success for the organization!

DeaFestival Planning

Planning has begun for DeaFestival 2014. On September 9 the Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist met with representatives from the Galt House to discuss event planning and the possibility of the Galt House being the "Host Hotel." A proposal is currently being reviewed.

Meeting with Outreach Director of Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Executive Staff Advisor (ESA) met with the Outreach Director of Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Colorado during August. The ESA took a tour of the facility and the Director explained the variety of programs and activities that the camp offers for deaf and hard of hearing children as well as additional programs for adults, parents and professionals that work with the community.

Project Safety and Accessibility for Everyone (SAFE) Summit

The Executive Staff Advisor and the Interpreter I attended the Project SAFE (Safety & Accessibility for Everyone) Summit. The summit was for network members, local project SAFE collaboration members, and others interested in working together to improve responses to domestic violence and sexual assault against individuals with disabilities. The purpose of the meeting was to recognize stakeholders, share the Project SAFE Strategic Plan and foster new local collaborations among those in attendance.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Council

The Internal Policy Analyst III attended the KATS Advisory Council meeting on July 9, and served as Chair of the meeting. Reports were given regarding the Assistive Technology Resource Center's operations during the last quarter and agencies are making great progress with outreach and meeting the demands of the disabled community. Telecommunications equipment is available in two of the four locations and several referrals are coming in from consumers who have tested the equipment. A program update was provided by the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC), which provided loans to 97 applicants totaling \$704,228. This is down from last year as defaults have become a concern and the board has become stricter on overriding applications from the bank. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and KCDHH also provided updates on activities and KATS announced that they have a new part time person, which is helping tremendously with outreach and coordination of services.

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) Transition Board Meeting

Kentucky won the bid to host the 2015 NBDA conference in Louisville. KCDHH plans to collaborate with NBDA in planning the conference. In September, as Vice President of NBDA, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended a Officer's transition board meeting, which gave the board the opportunity to visit the Galt House in Louisville, the proposed site for the 2015 conference.

Advocacy

KCDHH is regularly contacted by consumers in need of advocacy. During this quarter, some of these requests included, but were not limited to:

- A deaf mother who was due to give birth soon was being told she would not have an interpreter during labor and delivery because the hospital is contracted with a video remote interpreting (VRI) agency. KCDHH called to advocate and the hospital agreed to provide a live interpreter throughout the labor and delivery.
- A deaf individual's property owner was not providing interpreters for a mandatory tenant meeting. KCDHH was able to advocate and the proprietor will now provide interpreters for each meeting.
- A deaf consumer was convicted of DUI, and had their driver's license revoked. They were unable to find a way to attend DUI classes to enable them to get their license reinstated so they could resume working. KCDHH helped them arrange to complete classes with a local DUI provider and ensured that reasonable accommodations would be provided.



KCDHH Goal V: Cultivate and maintain an environment where productivity, efficiency and innovation thrive.

Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf (RID) Conference

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Interpreter, Interpreter I, and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the RID National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, from August 8-14. This gave the staff an opportunity to earn continuing education credits, professional development, and to network with over 2,000 interpreters in attendance. In recognition of RID's 50th anniversary, the conference returned to Indianapolis, the city in which RID was founded.

In advance of the RID conference, KCDHH provided two stipend-based conference scholarships to Kentucky interpreters who are members of RID. In addition to proving their temporary or full licensure status, applicants were asked to write about how they have contributed to the interpreting community and discuss some of the workshops attended. Based on this information, two individuals were selected to receive paid conference registrations. After conference reports were submitted to KCDHH as to what each attendee gained from participating in the national RID conference.

Staff Meetings

Staff meetings were held throughout this quarter and issues discussed included:

- KAD/KyRID Planning Conference
- Public relations and outreach for KCDHH and TAP Campaign
- Unique situations involving KCDHH's advocacy procedures
- Current and upcoming priorities and deadlines for staff projects

Birthdays

KCDHH celebrated the birthdays of the Executive Staff Advisor, Interpreter Referral Specialist and the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing during this quarter.