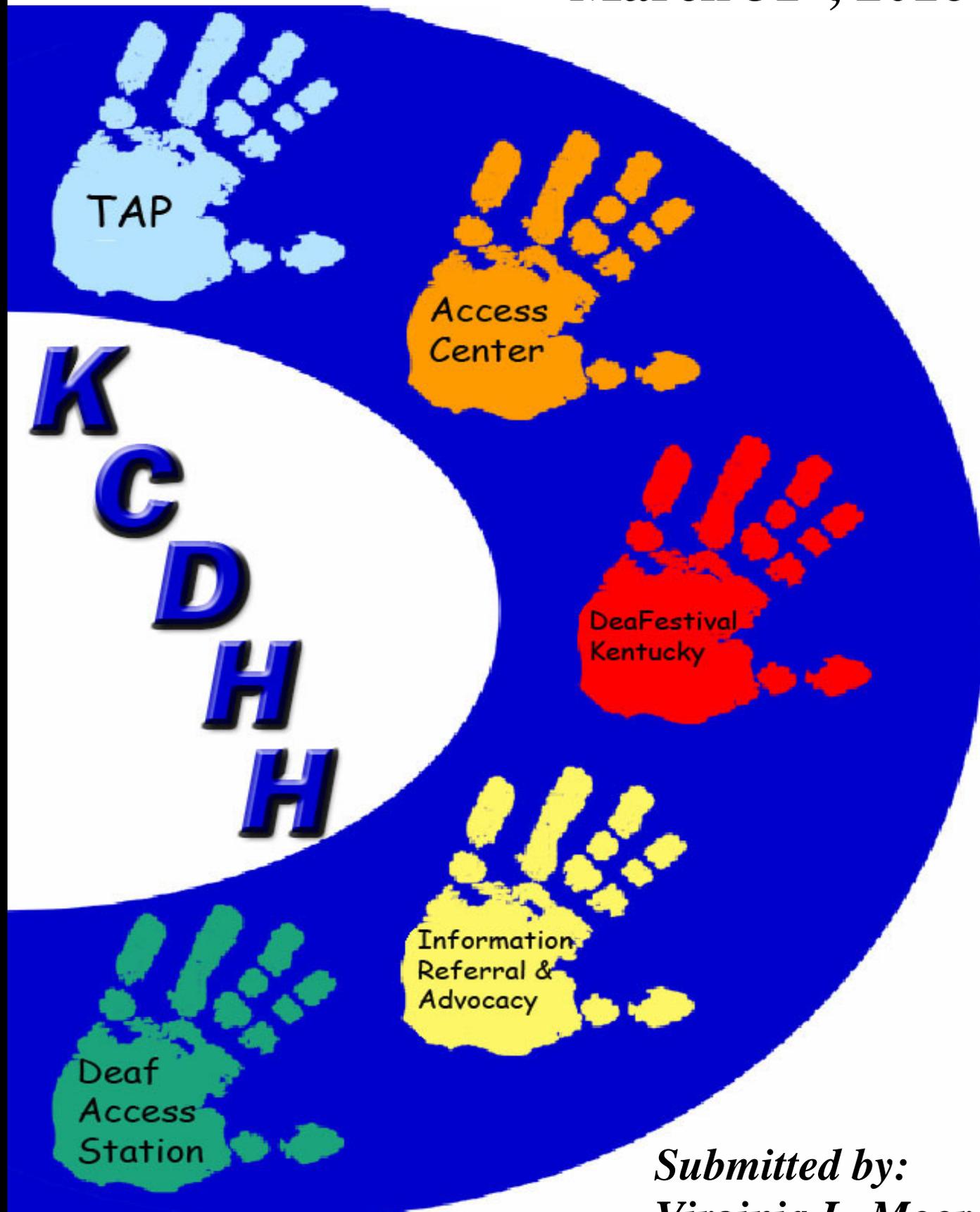


Agency Report

January 1st through
March 31st, 2016



Submitted by:
Virginia L. Moore

KCDHH Quarterly Activities

January 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016

Legislation

The 2016 General Assembly has been interesting with a new Governor in charge. Both the House and the Senate have introduced numerous bills for consideration, including the budget plans for the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches and the Transportation Cabinet and road plan. KCDHH did not propose any new legislation this session. However, staff reviewed legislation daily and completed reviews to the Cabinet, watching for anything that impacts KCDHH or the community. One bill of concern dealt with how regulations are promulgated and amended and will impact future regulation changes, including those we need to make regarding interpreter licensure requirements and the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). Senate Bill 129 was signed by the Governor on April 9 implementing these new provisions effective July 1. The Executive Director has already met with the interpreter licensure board about their regulation changes.

Other bills of concern include pension plans, education reform, teachers retirement, restricted funding and the governors ability to sweep remaining funds, civil rights, 911 emergency services funding and reorganization, medical authorization for advance practice registered nurses and physician assistants, ethics, disabled parking, dissolution of Kentucky Connect (broadband service expansion), transition from Kentucky health plan (KYNET) to the Federal health plan, Governor's office reorganization, telehealth services, government contracts, and outpatient mental health treatment. Until all of the budget bills are signed into law, we don't know the impact on programs and services, including budget cuts.

(3.3 Continually monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)

Budget

KCDHH has already experienced the 4.5% cut proposed by the Governor for this FY (ending June 30th), although the budget is not yet finalized. If the budget passes the General Assembly and is signed by the Governor, then for each of the next two fiscal years we will be hit with a 9% cut, with the discretion of how it's disbursed left up to the Secretary of each Cabinet. KCDHH is compensating for the 4.5% cut by utilizing vacancy credits, and will most likely lose the fifteenth position to meet the 9% cut, plus other tightening efforts throughout the agency.

(3.3 Continually monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)

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

On February 23, the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Senate A&R Budget subcommittee meeting at the request of the Cabinet Secretary. The overall budget for the Education Workforce and Development Cabinet was discussed before the subcommittee, with emphasis on expanding the job market in Kentucky and developing a stronger relationship between the industrial workforce and the technical schools. Subcommittee members asked questions about how various agencies would manage the proposed budget cuts and were answered. On February 24, the

House A&R subcommittee met for the same purpose and was provided the same presentation. The House asked several questions regarding funding for the technical schools and the proposed cuts to the state's universities.

(3.3 Continually monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)

Personnel

KCDHH was fortunate to fill the Information Office Supervisor position before a hiring freeze was imposed by the Governor. We have also been lucky to obtain an intern from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to perform filing and various other office duties. Two staff members will be on maternity leave this year, luckily not at the same time. So, there will be some shift in job responsibilities to fulfil their duties.

National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf/Hard Hearing (NASADHH)

During the last quarter, the Executive Director met several times with the NASADHH group through video conferencing. Common concerns and issues each state is experiencing includes certification of interpreters, recruiting teachers for the deaf, developing programs to treat mental health issues for the deaf, and promoting job opportunities. On March 16, the Chair of the organization represented the group at a meeting with Gallaudet University to discuss the development of a pipeline of internship opportunities with NASADHH.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Academic Bowl – Gallaudet President

On February 25-28, the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) hosted the Midwest Regional Academic Bowl sponsored by Gallaudet University. 17 Schools formed a team of four members each to compete. Competing schools included:

Alabama School for the Deaf – **Talladega, Alabama**
Atlanta Area School for the Deaf – **Clarkston, Georgia**
Clarkston High School – **Clarkston, Georgia**
Florida School for the Deaf and Blind – **St. Augustine, Florida**
Georgia School for the Deaf – **Cave Spring, Georgia**
Maryland School for the Deaf – **Frederick, Maryland**
Mississippi School for the Deaf – **Jackson, Mississippi**
Model Secondary School for the Deaf – **Washington, D. C.**
Kentucky School for the Deaf – **Danville, Kentucky**
North Carolina School for the Deaf – **Morganton, North Carolina**
Oklahoma School for the Deaf – **Sulphur, Oklahoma**
Pinellas Park High School – **Largo, Florida**
Rockville High School – **Rockville, Maryland**
South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind – **Spartanburg, South Carolina**
Starr's Mill High School – **Fayetteville, Georgia**
Tennessee School for the Deaf – **Knoxville, Tennessee**
Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind – **Staunton, Virginia**
W. T. Woodson High School – **Fairfax, Virginia**

KCDHH staff provided support and assistance.

Gallaudet University President Roberta “Bobbi” Cordano



Gallaudet’s President Cordano, along with other Gallaudet staff, attended the Academic Bowl competition providing guidance and guidelines of the competition. President Cordano met with the students of the competition sharing words of wisdom and encouragement. She also met with parents answering questions and shared the new exciting future goals of Gallaudet University.

On February 26, the Executive Director and five staff members attend the Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association Gala event where President Roberta “Bobbie” Cordano was honored by KSD and the community and discussed her vision and the future of Gallaudet. The Executive Director also met with President Cordano one-on-one on February 27 to discuss concerns about KSD, issues facing deaf Kentuckians and interpreter certification. Topics included:

- Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students statewide and the need for Gallaudet University to produce more qualified teachers for the deaf. The Executive Director suggested that Gallaudet require graduates to intern with various schools for the Deaf.
- The need for Gallaudet to work with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the National Association of State Administrators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) and other stakeholders regarding interpreter certification methods.
- Establishing a Task Force at Gallaudet to discuss how to make progress on these goals and improve education and interpreting standards in all states.

(3.1 Advocate for improved education for deaf and hard of hearing students.)

Governors Prayer Breakfast

The Executive Director and several other staff members attended the Governor's Prayer Breakfast on February 16. The Governor, along with several keynote speakers, spoke at the annual event at the Frankfort Civic Center and said it was an opportunity to unite Kentuckians of all faiths, backgrounds and parties to pray for the commonwealth, its leaders and its future

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

American Sign Language in the K-12 School System

On March 3, an article written by the Executive Director related to American Sign Language as a foreign language and how KCDHH can act as a resource for individuals who are interested in getting this established in their school district was published in the Kentucky Teacher, an on-line publication of the Kentucky Department of Education.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

DeaFestival-Kentucky



During this quarter, site locations have been confirmed and contracts have been made with the Galt House as DeaFestival's host hotel, and the Kentucky Center of Performing Arts as DeaFestival's location. The DeaFestival Core team, Executive Director, Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Executive Secretary and the Interpreter Referral Specialist met with the Associate Education Director and Associate Artistic Director in charge of education with the Lexington Children Theater (LCT) to discuss a partnership for producing the children's program which will be based on the Wizard of Oz. Staff has begun a wide-search for donations and sponsorships to support various DeaFestival programs, including applications for the Arts Access Grant with the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Colonels grant, Walmart grants and sponsorship requests to AT&T and other previous sponsors. Additional committees have been formed to work on the different programs and areas of need, such as: volunteers, performers, artists, hospitality and transportation.

(4.3 Educate and expose the public to the uniqueness of deaf culture.)

Special Election Vlogs



Due to circumstances with special elections in Kentucky this year, KCDHH did a series of American Sign Language (ASL) Vlogs helping to explain the changes to constituents.

(2.5 Broaden the Web site to be inclusive of issues and needs of Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community.)



KCDHH GOALS



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

National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Opportunities



Starting January 1, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) imposed a moratorium on credentialing for performance exams such as the National Interpreters Certification (NIC) exam, Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI), Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L), and the Oral Transliteration Certificate (OTC). KCDHH did not offer any performance exams during this quarter because of the moratorium.

(1.3 Provide national certification opportunities (NIC) within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.)

Access Center Assignments

Requests	Filled /pending assignments	Cancelled assignments	Interpreting Hours	Average # of contacts per assignment request
Request for Interpreting	338	8	1201	8
Request for Captioning	6	1	23	7

Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI)



On January 13, the Executive Director and the Interpreter Referral Specialist met with the chair of the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) Ad Hoc committee and the Kentucky Registry of

Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID) president to discuss what would be proposed to the KBI board for recommendations regarding certifications being accepted for interpreters applying for full licensure since the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) has put a moratorium on all RID performance exams such as the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Performance Exam and Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) performance exam. The group contacted the Director and Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Administrator with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to ask for clarification on the separate levels of the BEI and qualifications for each level. KCDHH and KBI Ad Hoc representatives both agreed with the facts, information and statistics shown for interpreters who want to apply for full licensure, that the BEI Advanced would be acceptable for full certification. Individuals who hold a BEI Basic certification would be eligible for temporary licensure. It would be up to the KBI's discretion to determine if those who have BEI Advanced level that are applying for full licensure in Kentucky must also have passed the NIC knowledge exam since the BEI test does not evaluate an individual's ethical behavior, deaf culture and deaf history.

(1.3 Provide national certification opportunities (NIC) within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.)

Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI)

The Executive Director and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI) meeting on January 26. At this meeting, the discussions were focused on the recommendations that were being made by the KBI Ad Hoc Committee and the support of KCDHH. KCDHH has been working closely with the licensure board to include the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) as an authorized certification for licensure in Kentucky. We have been working with Texas to try and formulate a plan for Kentucky interpreters who wish to take this test, asking for 15 tests per year. After 15, an agreement would be made with Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Michigan. However, due to the current position of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), BEI is being inundated with requests from other states, causing a delay with our proposed agreement.

During the Executive Director's meeting with the President of Gallaudet, Roberto "Bobbie" Cordano, the issues with national certification of interpreters was also discussed. Ms. Cordano believes with Gallaudet's resources and ability to do testing, they should be a natural fit for developing and providing national testing for interpreters. Ms. Cordano is willing to explore this option through a task force. Entities included in the task force may be Gallaudet, directors of other state commissions, and the National Association of the Deaf and other stakeholders to discuss the possibilities of developing a separate LLC that would provide funding for Gallaudet to develop and provide a certification mechanism for sign language interpreters.

(1.3 Provide national certification opportunities (NIC) within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.)

Telecommunication Access Program Activities



On January 6, the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Team staff met with staff from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives to discuss records retention requirements and purging of hardcopy TAP files that are consuming considerable office space. It was determined that files scanned and downloaded to the Access database can be purged. A schedule was set by the team to shred all old documents, maintaining only eight years' worth of hardcopies. This project has been completed and space has been reorganized.

TAP daily activities are running smoothly, although there has been a decrease in applications since the newest wireless devices have been offered for over a year now. The TAP Team is coming up with ideas to partner with other entities to spread the word and continue to reach out to the community we serve. The current TAP Advisory Board Chair's term is expiring, and interest has been expressed for that individual to continue to serve. This will be discussed and voted on by the full Board at the next Commission meeting.

Kentucky's Relay provider's contract expires May 15 and bids were sent out by the Public Service Commission in February. In late March, we were advised that Hamilton Relay won the contract for up to five years. Sprint Relay's service will end and the transfer will take place May 14-15 but will be invisible to consumers.

Vendor contract renewals for all TAP sole source agreements are in process of being renewed. Additional permission was received from Finance in late March and letters will be sent out in April.

Other states continue to contact KCDHH asking how we designed and implemented the wireless portion of our TAP. Kentucky is well known for being a leader in TAP distribution. *(1.6 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program and promote the use of assistive devices for the deaf and hard of hearing.)*

On March 23, the Administrative Specialist II met with the administrator of the Northern Kentucky Services for the Deaf to set up and do training on new equipment for the TAP equipment demonstration cabinets. Printed materials for the equipment were provided for individuals who need additional information.

(1.7 Conduct creative marketing and training opportunities to increase awareness and utilization of the services of the Telecommunications Access Program.)

Telecommunication Access Program Statistics

Applicants Receiving Equipment	Applicants Receiving Signaler
397	163





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

Information and Referral Requests

The Office of Information Services received 8,335 new contacts and 1,331 new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

Nature	Contacts	Closed Requests	Pending Requests
AC: Request for Captioner	59	3	4
AC: Request for Interpreter	2844	291	55
Administration	53	4	10
DeaFestival	45	12	0
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	49	11	0
IRA: Deaf Culture	53	7	1
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	141	57	0
IRA: Demographics & Statistics	4	2	0
IRA: Education	8	2	1
IRA: Employment	18	5	0
IRA: Families & Children	58	10	0
IRA: General Database	4	2	0
IRA: Human Services	97	30	1
IRA: Interpreting	126	48	1
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	146	20	2
IRA: Outreach	23	4	0
IRA: Technology	66	27	0
IRA: Veterans	2	1	0
Library	11	2	0
PUB : ICE CARDS	2	1	0
PUB: Communicator	44	22	0
PUB: Visor Cards	32	14	0
TAP : STATUS CHECK	122	25	2
TAP: General Questions	69	18	0
TAP: Received Application for STE	2749	115	102
TAP: Repair	115	22	2
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	1253	349	1
TAP: TAP ISSUES	142	42	3
report total:	8335	1146	185

(2.1 Provide up-to-date and accurate information and make appropriate referrals to the public upon request.)

Public Relations Output

The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by KCDHH. **29,305** informational and public relations items were distributed during the quarter.

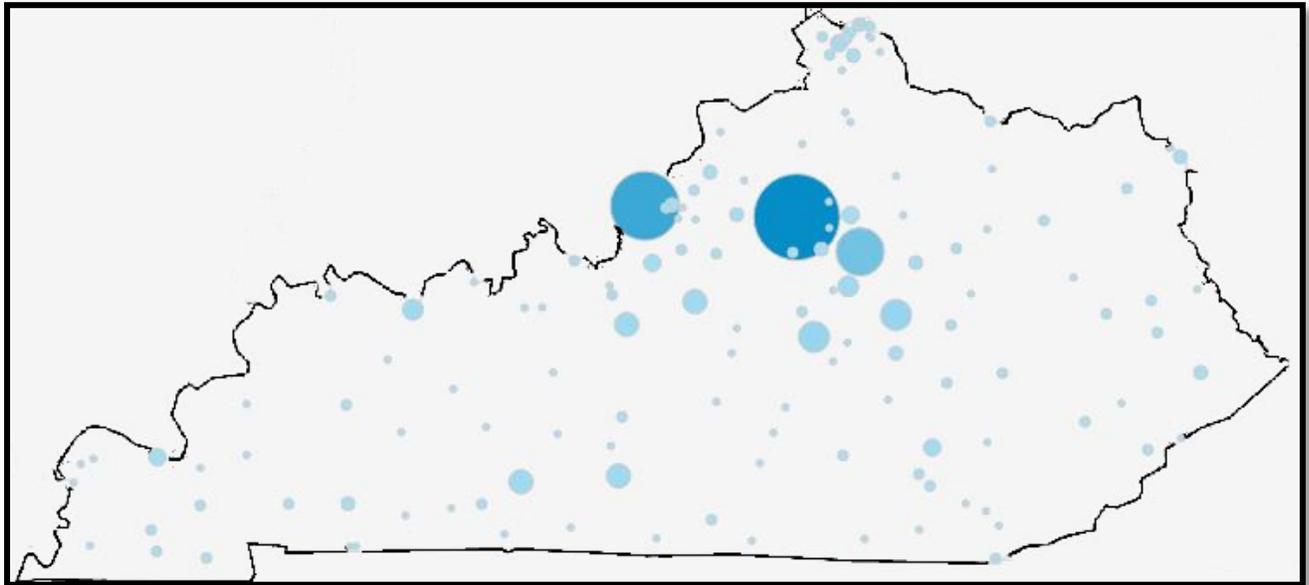
PR Dissemination	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	1,858
Blitz	11,062
Social Media	16,385
TOTAL	29,305

(2.8 Launch an aggressive PR plan to share information about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)

KCDHH Web Counter Hits: January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016

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.

We have had a total of 4,689 visitors from Kentucky this quarter which represents a significant 18% increase of visitors over the previous quarter (3,972). This increase is most likely attributable to interest in the upcoming DeaFestival as we see a 142% increase in views of the DeaFestival home page (from 622 last quarter to 1,507 this quarter). We also saw an increase due to election information vlogs.



(2.5 Broaden the Web site to be inclusive of issues and needs of Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community.)



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.

Blue Grass Airport meeting



On January 14, the Executive Director, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Executive Secretary met with the Blue Grass Airport management team to discuss ways in which they can meet the accessibility needs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals utilizing their enterprise. Accessibility needs include captioning for boarding announcements, location for the installment of videophones and others. A walking tour through each terminal allowed for discussion on how and where to implement appropriate accommodations.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

State Facility Interpreter Training

On January 27, the Interpreter I and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the second interpreter training at Bingham Gardens. Staff from each department gave brief descriptions of their roles, responsibilities and expectations from their patients. The Program Administrator for the Department of Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services spoke about mental health services and the role of interpreters in a mental health setting. This training was provided for interpreters currently working in the facility.

(3.5 Work in partnership with public, private and state providers to improve mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing.)

Division of Protection and Permanency

During this quarter, the Interpreter Referral Specialist, DBHDID Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and the Internal Policy Analyst III from the Division of Protection and Permanency held several meetings to address improving individualized language access needs for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families that are receiving services from the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS). This group discussed situations that are happening throughout the state and have worked to develop resources for the DCBS point person to resolve these issues. The group is now developing a PowerPoint training to be presented to (DCBS) employees to educate them on the needs of the vulnerable population. The training will then be posted online for DCBS employees to access at any time. The group plans to present the training at the System of Care (SOC) Conference in June.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children

The Executive Staff Advisor attended the Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) meeting February 18 and 19. The panel has a new chairperson and this meeting was focused on reviewing the bylaws and updating the strategic plan in order to make the panel more effective. The new Commissioner of the Department of Education sat in with the panel in order to introduce himself and let the panel know that he looks forward to working with them in the future. He took the opportunity to show a music video that was created for him by the graduating class at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

South Eastern Medical Interpreters Association



On March 3, the Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Interpreter Referral Specialist and Information Coordinator met with South Eastern Medical Interpreters Association (SEMIA) representatives from the University of Kentucky Health Care system and KentuckyOne. SEMIA is a 501c3

group that provides educational opportunities to interpreters and translators, as well as promotes professionalism and public awareness of the importance of providing quality interpretation services in health care. During this meeting, a script was developed for the first of many V-Logs that will be a part of posted KCDHH coffee chats. The first V-Log will focus on basic information and introductions to the hospital representatives and their responsibilities and explain the series of vlogs that are coming. We are working with the Hospital Association and will develop a four-part series, discussing the pros and cons of VRI through the eyes of a deaf consumer, empowering the deaf on how to use VRI and interpreters and their rights to advocate for use of either VRI or an interpreter in their personal situation. We are hoping these vlogs will educate the hospitals and the consumers to ensure complete communication needs are met.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network (KATS)



On March 4, the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the KATS Network Advisory Council Meeting at the Charles McDowell Center in Louisville. Members reviewed applications for three vacancies on the council and voted in a new Co-Chair. Updates were provided by the Regional Assistive Technology (AT) Centers in Lexington, Louisville, Florence, Owensboro and Thelma. The KATS Coordinating center also shared updates along with the Statewide Hearing Aid Reuse Project (SHARP), the Care and Reuse of Assistive Technology (CARAT) project, the Board of Elections online voting registration efforts, the American Printing house for the Blind grant opportunities, Protection and Advocacy, the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC), the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Rehabilitation Technology Branch, the Kentucky Department of Education,

Workforce Investment Board and KCDHH regarding current projects and progress to assist individuals with technology needs. Details on these projects from this large group of stakeholders can be accessed in the meeting minutes. Members confirmed that the 2016 Summer AT Conference would be held in June at the Kentucky State University Research Farm where all types of workshops and demonstrations on innovative AT will be provided. The biggest impact from discussion on KCDHH concerned the new Federal hearing aid law that was implemented January 1 and how to get insurance companies to comply with provision of hearing aids for individuals of all ages and intentions to hold a fundraiser sponsored by the Bardstown Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of American to collect additional funding to continue the SHARP.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC)



On March 15, the Internal Policy Analyst III (IPAIII) Chaired the KATLC Board of Directors meeting held at the McDowell Center in Louisville. Fifth Third Bank representatives provided a financial report and update on consumer applications and reviewed KATLC's investments and discussed options for upcoming reinvestments. Members reviewed and confirmed or denied Egroup votes that had occurred in the last quarter and again discussed that the number of applications for loans is declining. KATLC staff provided an overview of marketing activities and proposed to work in conjunction with KCDHH to do a large mailout of information to hearing loss professionals to boost those applications. The bank agreement with Fifth Third will expire in June and options and potential amendments to the agreement were discussed, including raising the limit for modified van loans to \$35,000, which would also require a regulation change. New Business included renewal and pricing of liability insurance, how to maintain the SHARP with funding running out this year, and election of officers. The IPA III was re-elected as Chair for another term. Additional details can be accessed in the meeting minutes.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)

National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference



The Executive Staff Advisor attended the annual National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) conference in San Diego, CA March 13-15. The goal of the annual EHDI meeting is to enhance the implementation of comprehensive state based EHDI programs. A multitude of diverse workshops were provided with the goal of assisting EHDI stakeholders (federal agencies, non-profit organizations, state health departments, educational agencies, advocacy groups, families, and professionals) in identifying and promoting knowledge and awareness of successful strategies for implementing comprehensive state-based EHDI programs. Such programs would include screening, audiological diagnostic evaluation, early intervention, medical home care, reporting, tracking, surveillance, loss to follow-up issues, data integration and other related surveillance components. Of particular interest was a

session focused on a Common Ground initiative from the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASED). The goal of the Common Ground project is to create a strong relationship between schools for the deaf and oral programs in order to work toward a shared vision and collaborate to create better education for all children with a hearing loss.

Each state hosted a stakeholders meeting for all individuals from their state that was in attendance. Several individuals, who work within the EHDI system in Kentucky in various roles, attended the conference and the Kentucky Stakeholders meeting was a review and update of the KY EHDI grants and the 2014 KY EHDI goals and their outcomes.

(3.6 Expand on partnerships with state and national organizations to improve early hearing detection and intervention.)

Kentucky Functional Access Needs Collaborative

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Kentucky Functional Access Needs Collaborative meeting on March 30 in Frankfort. The meeting was to discuss the severity of the Zika virus situation and how we can spread awareness of this new virus to the community as a whole. The Information Coordinator mentioned that KCDHH is actively informing the deaf and hard of hearing community about DeafHealth's signed vlog explaining the Zika virus. The group also focused on discussions related to Kentucky's needs assessment of high risk, frail, disabled or senior individuals living in HUD-funded housing and the medical needs for emergency shelters.

(3.4 Enhance emergency preparedness, response (including mobilization of resources), and the emergency notification communication system for Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing persons.)

Kentucky Department of Corrections

KCDHH provided feedback on a training designed to educate Kentucky Department of Correction (KDE) staff on how to work effectively with deaf and hard of hearing inmates. As a result of the initial training given by KDS, KCDHH has received several calls from ADA coordinators at different correctional facilities asking for additional resources.

(3.2 Work with state agencies and private sector committees, boards, task forces and organizations in an advisory capacity in matters related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.)





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.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Cadre

On January 6, the Executive Staff Advisor gave a presentation about Self-Advocacy to the deaf and hard of hearing teachers in the Green River Regional Education Cooperative (GRREC). Emphasis was placed on why deaf and hard of hearing students need to develop appropriate self-advocacy skills as early as possible and multiple resources were shared and discussed. There was also discussion on how a self-advocacy curriculum could be implemented in the classroom, as well as in other events such as Hands Alive.

(4.1 Continue developing and expanding modules to train deaf and hard of hearing community members to improve self-advocacy skills.)

Everybody Counts

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was invited to Prince of Peace Catholic School in Covington for the Annual Everybody Counts Week on January 14. The primary focus was to educate the students, faculty, and staff about hearing loss. There were approximately 100 in attendance who were very engaged with the presentation and filled with intriguing questions about individuals' experiences and hearing loss.

(4.3 Educate and expose the public to the uniqueness of deaf culture.)

Hands Alive

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended Hands Alive in Louisville to give a presentation on March 18. The presentation was to educate the high school students about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and their rights to ask for effective communication access in college and employment.

The Executive Staff Advisor attended Hands Alive in Owensboro on March 24 to give presentations related to self-advocacy. The focus was preparing students to become effective self-advocates and also ways in which the parents themselves can become better advocates and assist their child in honing their own self-advocacy skills.

(4.5 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing related organizations and events.)





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

Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (KyRID) Spring Conference

On March 19, the Interpreter I and the Executive Secretary II attended the one day KYRID Spring Conference in Bowling Green. This conference was composed of one workshop which encouraged the incorporation of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct into various work environments such as medical, educational, legal, mental health, etc. A business meeting was also held during the conference in which new officers were selected.

(5.1 Seek professional and personal development opportunities for staff and commissioners.)

Public Information Officer Meeting

The Information Office Supervisor attended the Education Cabinet’s communication liaisons and public information officers meeting on March 30 as an orientation for new staff. Each new member introduced themselves and discussed their respective agency’s mission, purpose, constituents, current initiatives, event schedules for April through June of 2016, types of media outlets and social media used for press releases and newsletters and whether or not an agency used paid advertising. The information presented will be used to develop an internal and external communications plan for the Cabinet. Future meetings will be held to complete the process of developing the Cabinet’s communication plan.

(5.1 Seek professional and personal development opportunities for staff and commissioners.)

Celebrations



This quarter, we celebrated the birthdays of the Executive Director, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Interpreter I and the Document Processing Specialist II.



This quarter, two new lives were added to the KCDHH family. A previous employee who continues to volunteer with DeaFestival gave birth to a daughter on January 23 and the Interpreter Referral Specialist also gave birth to a daughter on March 17.