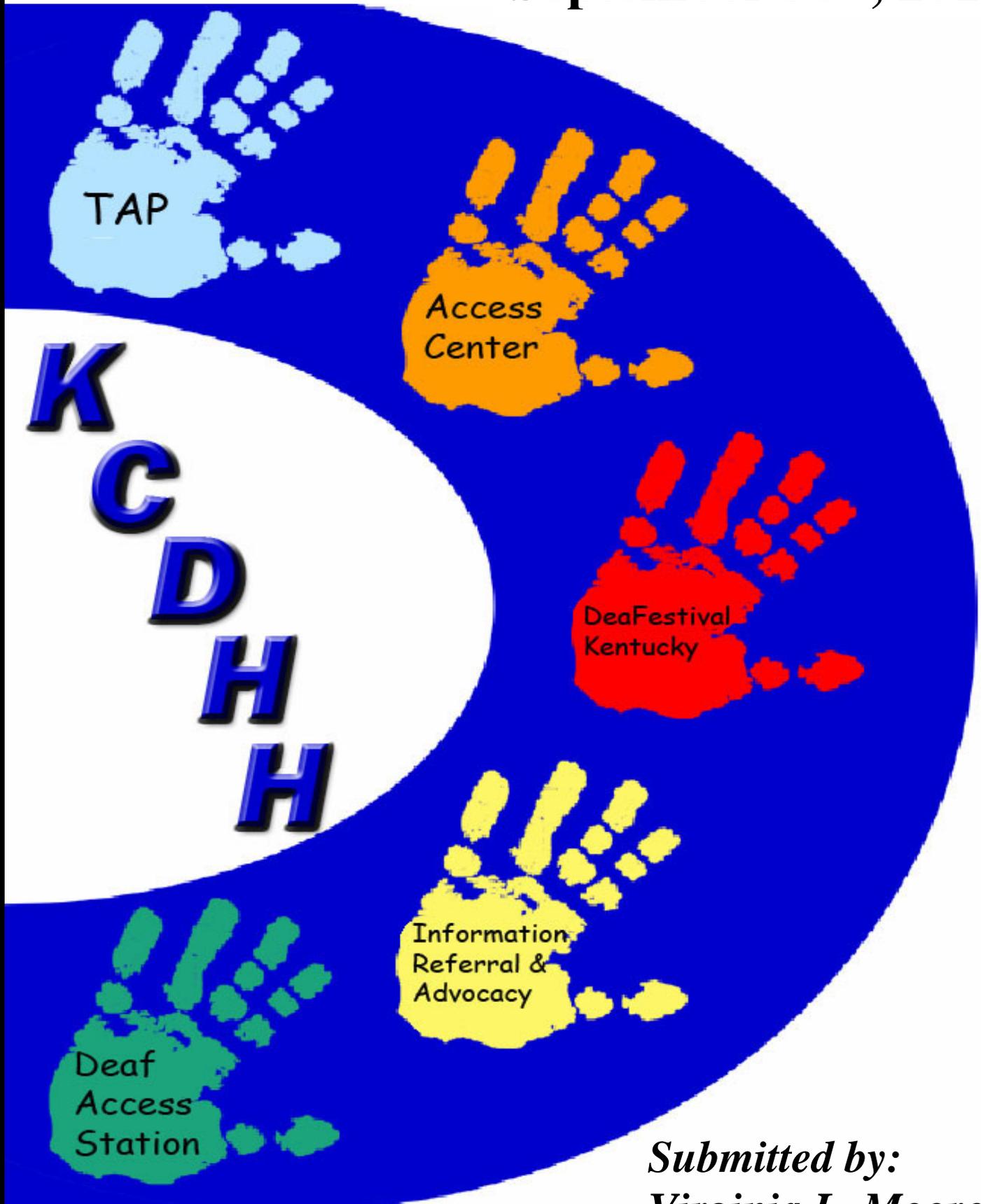


# *Agency Report*

July 1<sup>st</sup> through  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016



*Submitted by:*  
*Virginia L. Moore*

## **KCDHH Quarterly Activities**

**July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016**

### ***Legislative Research Commission - Deaf/Hard of Hearing Drivers***

Due to the recent fatal shooting of a deaf individual in Louisville, two Kentucky legislators asked their staff in the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to host a meeting on September 26 with their staff and staff from the KCDHH, the Kentucky Department of Vehicle Regulation (KDVR), the Kentucky State Police (KSP), and the Kentucky Sheriff's Association (KSA). LRC staff asked those in attendance, including KCDHH Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor, Internal Policy Analyst III, Information Office Supervisor, KDVR Administrative Branch Manager, KDVR Assistant Director, KDVR Division Director, KSP Major and Lieutenant and KSA President, to develop guidelines, tools and/or potential legislation required for state and local police and law enforcement agencies to ensure effective communication between officers and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Another meeting will be set to discuss actions that need to be taken, including training sessions, and partnerships that will ensure effective communication during police interactions. Possible legislation may be needed to ensure all partners are in compliance.

*(3.3 Monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)*

### **Regulations**

Attorneys from the Education Cabinet requested a meeting on September 22 to discuss regulations governing KCDHH during their Red Tape Reduction project held throughout the Cabinet. The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III discussed each of the regulations governing the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) and the Access Center (AC) and noted that the regulations governing these programs are current and relevant and do not need any amendments at this time. Attorney's seemed satisfied and advised they would contact us if further information was required.

*(3.3 Monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)*

### **Budget**

KCDHH has experienced, like most other state agencies, a nine-percent budget cut for fiscal year 17. KCDHH used the funding from an approved 15<sup>th</sup> position to meet this reduction. If funds can be reallocated in the future, or if additional funding can be obtained, the 15<sup>th</sup> position could be justified at that time.

*(3.3 Monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)*

## ***Agency Examination with Secretary Hal Heiner***

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Advisor and Internal Policy Analyst III met with our Cabinet Secretary, Hal Heiner and three high ranking members of his staff on July 21. The Cabinet has been completing reviews with individual agencies since the change in governance and we were given an agenda to prepare for our part of the Cabinet review. Several things were discussed during the meeting, including the importance of being accessible to our constituents and the public, partnerships with other agencies (State Police, Veteran's Affairs, Community Based Services and Mental Health Services) and information we distribute from our collaborations. Also discussed was the plan to send staff to various regions within the state to provide more one-on-one contact with our constituents. During these outreaches staff would also meet with stakeholders such as hospitals, doctors, police, lawyers, court officials and other community partners, to advise them of the resources KCDHH can provide. Secretary Heiner was very supportive of this regional based proposal. He then asked about the difference in KCDHH and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. The Executive Director responded that we serve consumers from the cradle to the grave, not just work or school oriented individuals.

The Secretary and his staff asked questions about KCDHH that included our mission, statutes, regulations, program objectives, strategic plan and public relation efforts. Staff answered their questions and the Executive Director advised that KCDHH is a completely personnel driven agency that serves all 700,000 deaf and hard of hearing consumers across the state. The Secretary seemed to be satisfied with the information provided and left the meeting with notes to consider for future objectives.

*(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 Association for the Deaf National Conference and National Association of State Administrators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

The Executive Director and Information Coordinator for the Deaf attended the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference in Phoenix, Arizona from July 4 - 8. The Executive Director met with the National Association of State Administrators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. (NASADHH) on July 4. As a member of the NASADHH board the Executive Director met with Gallaudet's President during the conference and discussed several issues including; Interpreting certification, funneling of deaf teachers through a pipeline from Gallaudet to residential schools and the lack of deaf leadership in most communities. A roundtable meeting with President Corando and NASADHH members will be held this fall to discuss these issues more in depth.

The Information Coordinator attended the NAD conference as an Alternate Delegate along with two delegates from the Kentucky Association for the Deaf (KAD). The role as delegate

was to attend four-days of sessions and vote on priorities that NAD should focus on to improve the Deaf community in the next two years nationwide.

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

### **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) Region III Conference**

The Executive Director, Executive Staff Secretary, Executive Staff Interpreter, and Interpreter Referral Specialist attended the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Region III conference held at the Galt House in Louisville from July 28-31. The KCDHH staff was able to receive Continuing Education Units (CEU's) to keep their interpreter certification and license. The conference, *It Takes a Village* provided over 20 hours of CEUs, with exciting keynote presentation by Calvin Young from Seek the World and opening ceremonies provided by Windell Wink Smith. Staff was also provided the opportunity to network within the interpreting community and keep abreast of changes within the field.

*(1.3 Educate and promote current interpreting standards, including Kentucky licensure law, Professional Code of Conduct and Access Center policies.) (4.4 Promote staff involvement in the community through participation in deaf and hard of hearing-related organizations and events.)*

### **TEDPA**

The Executive Director, Internal Policy Analyst III, and Program Coordinator attended the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA) national conference in Annapolis, Maryland September 6-10, 2016. This conference allowed staff to network with other Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) managers and vendors to obtain valuable information regarding new technology, policy and procedures for administering the equipment distribution program and obtain information regarding methods of improving the TAP in Kentucky. Workshops were held on new innovations in equipment, iPad and iPhone accessible applications, equipment evaluation, hearing aid compatible and Bluetooth accessories, sustainability for the program, standards and evaluation of equipment and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) updates. Vendors showcased new equipment and enhancements on current equipment, providing valuable information for the acquisition of vendor contracts for TAP. The Business meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> where elections of officers were held and subcommittees were formed to research new topics for the upcoming year. The Program Coordinator served as Parliamentarian.

*(1.5 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

### **NASRA**

The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended the National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) national conference in Annapolis, Maryland

September 11-15, 2016. The conference proved invaluable for obtaining information on FCC updates regarding relay services, especially the recent controversy in captioned call relay services and real time text (RTT), which is coming soon to many states. RTT will assist states in handling E911 calls if the local service centers can accept this form of communication. Video calls are also on the horizon but will take much longer for local service centers to have the capability of receiving. Workshops were also held on Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services (ITRS) monitoring and possible funding changes, international information from Thailand, Sweden and New Zealand on their TRS programs were provided and for the most part these countries have surpassed the United States in communication capabilities for all populations because their governments support their programs rather than depending on state and federal funding mechanisms. This conference provides staff with information on national and international changes on the horizon and allows us to plan for the sustainability of TRS in Kentucky, as well as become aware of international innovations.

*(1.5 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

### **DeaFestival-Kentucky 2016**



Before the doors were even opened, passersby knew they were about to be transported into another world at DeaFestival-Kentucky 2016. With the help and ideas of each staff member, KDCHH pulled off another successful educational event, taking attendees on a journey down the yellow brick road to the Land of Oz. Each and every visitor who came through the door was given an opportunity to participate, watch and learn from sponsors, visual artists, vendors and performers, and truly experience the theme ***“You’ve Always Had the Power Within - You Just Had to Learn It for Yourself.”*** Deaf and hard of hearing performers and artists prove to the parents of deaf children that their child has the “Power” to be and do anything! DeaFestival 2016, in Louisville, Kentucky once again, hit record attendance, thanks to social media, vlogs and good old fashioned “word of mouth” advertising in the month’s preceding the event. A tradition that started 20 years ago as a dream has now evolved from a local event into a nationally recognized event with performers, artists, sponsors and attendees. As a matter of fact, one family (both mother and daughter were hearing) drove seven hours just to see one of this year’s performers! That is what DeaFestival is all about; showing the general public that deaf and hard of hearing performers and visual artists can do anything! With old traditions and the addition of new ones, DeaFestival has continued to evolve. One of this year’s new events, “Sign and Paint,” was well received and gave participants an opportunity to paint with a professional deaf artist and leave with a



painting of their own. Participants were also encouraged to visit vendors and visual artists (Cookie Williams Art Gallery) and play trivia games in order to win DeaFestival dollars which they then used to purchase artwork from Visual Artists. The Lexington Children's Theater partnered again this year to offer an interactive children's program, "Wizard of Oz" with Peter Cook as emcee. Spotlights offered a new twist, a "Talk Show" this year, giving the audiences an inside look at performers and artists. Sandra Mae Frank, a Louisville native and graduate of Kentucky School for the Deaf, recently made her debut on Broadway in New York City and said if it hadn't been for DeaFestival Kentucky, she might not have pursued a career as an actress. She returned to this year's DeaFestival as a performer in the Children's program and was also interviewed during one of the Talk Show segments as a deaf professional. This year we also obtained numerous in-kind donations from community businesses which fed volunteers, performers, artists, sponsors and staff for two days. As always, Jam Tent still rocked the house in a grand finale with top deaf and hard of hearing hip hop and rock 'n' roll musicians. With the traditional question "why don't you all do this every year?" the end of the day finally came and staff was able to say the job was well done as another successful DeaFestival is concluded.

*(4.3 Educate and raise awareness of the distinct aspects of the deaf culture and its impact on services delivery and policy development.)*

### **2016 Kentucky Governor's Awards in the Arts**

In late August KCDHH was notified that we had received the government award section of the Kentucky Governor's Awards in the Arts through the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC). During DeaFestival 2016, Ms. Sandra Frank, a Broadway actress along with visual artist Mr. John Horsley, both from Kentucky, and Executive Director Virginia Moore, were interviewed by the KAC as part of the honor for partnering to produce the 20<sup>th</sup> biennial celebration of deaf culture and art. An official ceremony will be held in October at which time KAC will show the interview to all in attendance at the awards ceremony.

*(4.3 Educate and raise awareness of the distinct aspects of the deaf culture and its impact on services delivery and policy development.)*

## **KCDHH GOALS**



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

### ***National Interpreter Certification Opportunities***

#### ***RID Supersite Update***

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) has set up CASLI (Center for the Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation, LLC) to administer the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Knowledge Exam, National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Interview and

Performance Exam and the Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) Knowledge Exam. In the past, RID was the credentialing entity. CASLI has been working with Comira, which is a full service testing company for licensure, certification, assessment and educational testing programs. Applications for the NIC Interview and Performance exam have been open since July 1. It was projected that by September 1, testing would be open to candidates to schedule the NIC interview and Performance exam test sites but Comira is not announcing test locations until October 1, 2016. As of September 15, KCDHH is working with Comira to see if the KCDHH facility and agreement policies will fall in line with state government restrictions and policies to allow KCDHH to continue as a test site.

*(1.3 Educate and promote current interpreting standards, including Kentucky licensure law, Professional Code of Conduct and Access Center policies.)*

### **Access Center Assignments**

KCDHH Access Center (AC) received an influx of request for the past quarter and the requests are constantly increasing. Constituents receiving services through AC are learning to advocate for themselves and thus promote more requests for services. The increase is in part due to the continuous partnership with the Department for Community Based Services and the Division of Behavioral Health, both agencies within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services who serve numerous deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

Requests	Filled /pending assignments	Cancelled assignments	Interpreting Hours	Average # of contacts per assignment request
Request for Interpreting	238	11	1367	11
Request for Captioning	6	0	6	7
Request for Videoconference	0	0	0	0

*(1.3 Educate and promote current interpreting standards, including Kentucky licensure law, Professional Code of Conduct and Access Center policies.)*

### **Telecommunication Access Program Activities**

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
Applying for STE	180	202	64

*(1.5 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)*

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) continues to run smoothly with applications processed timely and orders processed as quickly as possible. The end of the fiscal year caused some delay in completing the next order as funding and contracts

on eMARS had problematic system issues that were not under the control of KCDHH. The TAP team processed numerous requests from the State Fair and has seen an increase in reapplications as well, but staff has kept application processing up to date and ordering is back on a timely schedule.

TAP requests for services are tracked and were generated as follows:

Final Quarter TAP Count												
Quarter: July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016												
	Applied before	TV Ad	Billboard	Radio	Outreach	A friend	Web site	Newsletter	Facebook	Referral	Other	TOTAL
FQC*	62	5	0	0	56	59	14	2	1	118	100	417
*FQC: "Final Quarter Count"												
This email was automatically generated by the Web server on Saturday - October 01, 2016 12:01 AM EDT INBOX NOT MONITORED - DO NOT REPLY												

*(1.5 Provide specialized telecommunications equipment to deaf and hard of hearing consumers through the Telecommunications Access Program.)*



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

On July 26 the Administrative Specialist II and Information Office Supervisor hosted an outreach booth in Lexington at the Old Union Christian Church Women’s Fellowship. Several devices from the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) were demonstrated and details about the application process and equipment brochures were explained. This outreach was informative and many questions were asked by the group and attendees seemed very appreciative for the information and resources.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

On July 27 the Administrative Specialist II attended the Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology (CARAT) Open House in Paducah where another TAP demonstration cabinet is located. Project CARAT hosted a grand opening / ribbon cutting ceremony at their office, which is inside the Lourdes Home Care and Hospice Building in Paducah. Project CARAT collects and refurbishes donated durable medical equipment and distributes the equipment to Kentucky residents in need. CARAT is part of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network.



This open house brought great exposure to KCDHH as many individuals were not aware of the services we provide and staff were thrilled that a TAP Cabinet was

being placed at their facility. This picture ran in one of the local newspapers and was later aired during the evening news segment, which mentioned their partnership with KCDHH.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

On July 27 the Administrative Specialist II traveled to the Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center on the Wendell Foster's Campus in Owensboro, KY to deliver updated equipment to their TAP demonstration cabinet. Staff was advised on how the new devices worked and the demonstration cabinet is now updated.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

On August 27 the Administrative Specialist II attended the first Bluegrass Laryngectomy Conference held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. The conference was presented by the Kentucky Voice and Swallow organization. KCDHH hosted a booth with information and resources and also displayed the TeleTalk Speech Aid phone with cordless electrolarynx device and our iPad with various speech aid applications loaded, which are both available through the TAP. This was a very informative conference and most attendees were knowledgeable about KCDHH and TAP but many had questions and asked for TAP applications. Brochures were handed out and explained.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

On September 7 the Administrative Specialist II set up KCDHH's eighth TAP demonstration cabinet at the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Thelma. All current phone equipment was stocked and labeled in the cabinet and applications and brochures were given out to staff. Training was provided, explaining the TAP equipment and KCDHH's other services. The contact person for this site was added to our website and flyers and will be included in the next printing of the brochure. The Education Cabinet public relations department sent out a press release announcing the setup of this site and its availability to consumers in the Eastern Kentucky area. *(Handout lists all sites)*

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

### ***Ready Kids Conference***

The Executive Director and the Executive Staff Advisor presented at the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Ready Kids Conference on July 13 in Louisville. The presentation was entitled "*The Whole Child*" and was designed to bring attention to impacts on a child with a hearing loss other than medical and educational. Some topics discussed were family, siblings, incidental learning and self-esteem. Information from a parent's perspective was also shared and several family members and First Steps staff were in attendance. Positive dialogue was initiated during the question and answer session.

*(2.2 Facilitate training opportunities regarding issues that affect the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## ***Hear It Here***

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the annual “Hear It Here” conference on July 15 in Louisville. The booth distributed parent packets, general KCDHH information and PR items. Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children and professionals took the opportunity to learn about KCDHH, as well as collected information.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## ***Inland Valley Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Camp***

The Executive Staff Advisor was the keynote presenter for the Inland Valley Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Camp in Chino, CA on July 30-31. The keynote presentation was entitled “*The Whole Child*” and was designed to bring attention to impacts on a child with a hearing loss other than medical and educational. Some topics discussed were family, siblings, social/emotional growth and the importance of deaf/hard of hearing peers and role models. An open and emotional discussion was had amongst many families and it was a great learning experience for everyone.

*(2.2 Facilitate training opportunities regarding issues that affect the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## ***Kentucky Audiology Association Conference***

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the annual Kentucky Audiology Academy Conference in Lexington on August 4-5. Each audiologist in attendance was required to stop at each exhibitor booth to learn about the agency and organizations. The audiologists were happy to know that KCDHH is available and learned more about the Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP). KCDHH distributed general information, TAP flyers, Veterans brochures, PR items and displayed the TAP demonstration cabinet devices, including iPads with specialized applications for deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired consumers.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## ***Kentucky State Fair 2016***

Once again, the KCDHH partnered with the Heuser Hearing Institute at the Kentucky State Fair August 18-28 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. KCDHH distributed a wide variety of information about its programs and services, including the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), services for Veterans, and resources available for hearing aid purchases. Specialized Telephone Equipment (STE) demonstrations were given to the public and the TAP cabinet displayed several phone models, visual alert signalers and TTYs to give the public an opportunity to see the different devices available. Several KCDHH staff, Commissioners, and numerous volunteers were available to answer

questions and to promote KCDHH programs and services. During the ten days, 403 requests were submitted from fairgoers for additional information or TAP applications.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

### **BBQ on the River**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing traveled to Paducah to the Annual BBQ on the River on September 22-24. A booth was set up for western Kentuckians to learn about the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP), KCDHH and DeaFestival. An outreach representative from Hamilton Relay joined KCDHH staff to reach out to Kentuckians about Kentucky's Relay Service and CapTel services available both through landlines and mobile devices. A Commissioner and an Interpreter also volunteered their time to work the booth and help raise awareness in the community of KCDHH and its programs and services. Approximately 40,000 attended the festival.

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*



## ***Information and Referral Requests***

The Office of Information Services received **7,471** new contacts and **1,620** new requests during this quarter, broken down as follows by category:

<b>Nature</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Closed Requests</b>	<b>Pending Requests</b>
AC: Request for Captioner	64	1	5
AC: Request for Interpreter	2894	210	96
AC: DAS	0	0	0
AC: Outreach	3	1	0
Administration	82	6	3
DeaFestival	82	43	0
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	77	34	0
IRA: Deaf Culture	8	3	0
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	383	168	1
IRA: Education	9	2	1
IRA: Employment	28	5	1
IRA: Families & Children	46	10	1
IRA: Human Services	110	34	2
IRA: Interpreting	118	19	8
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	221	24	2
IRA: Outreach	19	5	0
IRA: Senior Citizens	3	1	0
IRA: Veterans	9	3	0
IRA: Technology	92	32	0
PUB: Communicator	215	82	1
PUB: Directory of Services	9	3	0
Library	4	2	0
PUB: Visor Cards	238	84	0
Special Projects	0	0	0
TAP: General Questions	62	24	0
TAP: Status Check	82	28	2
TAP: Outreach	6	2	0
TAP: Received Application for STE	1582	8	212
TAP: Repair	42	12	4
TAP: Requested a TAP Application	921	408	1
TAP: TAP ISSUES	62	22	4
<b>Report total:</b>	<b>7471</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>344</b>

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

## **Public Relations Output**

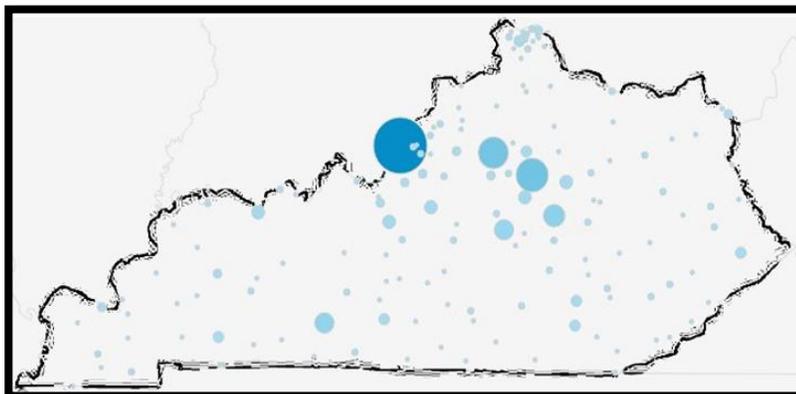
The Office of Information Services focuses on Public Relations (PR) efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by the agency. **83,006** information and PR items were distributed during the quarter as follows.

<b>PR Dissemination</b>	
<i>Method of Dissemination</i>	<i>Number Disseminated</i>
Hard Copy	12,050
Blitz	5,329
Social Media (KCDHH)	24,499
Social Media (DeaFestival)	41,128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,006</b>

*(2.6 Promote and create awareness about KCDHH and its programs, and additional programs and services related to the deaf and hard of hearing community.)*

## **KCDHH Web Counter Hits: July 1 – September 30, 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.



This image shows the Kentucky cities from which visitors visited our web site. As expected, we have had a total of 6,503 visitors from Kentucky this quarter which represents a massive 76% increase of visitors over the previous quarter (3,692). It's easy to discern that this remarkable increase of visitors was attributable to interest in the DeaFestival pages (8,752 views this quarter vs. 1,744 views in the previous quarter). Interestingly, there was also a very high interest in the "Communicating with the Police" vlog (1,598 views) which was published on August 23, showing the concern for safety and communication during encounters with police officers statewide. Interest in the other pages of our web site remained relatively stable.

*(2.5 Provide public and Web Vlogs to foster discussion by the public on deaf and hard of hearing issues.)*



**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.**

### **Mental Health Advisory Committee**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Advisory Committee on the Need for Services for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, as a proxy for the Executive Director. The meeting was held in Frankfort on August 17. A presentation was given by a noted psychologist that focused on statistical information of deaf and hard of hearing students. Topics included; “Have we seen a new Morbidity in deafness”, “Are Demographics of deaf/hard of hearing (D/HH) Children changing”, “Is there a Typical” DHH child” and “What do we know about Deaf of Deaf”. Representatives from various agencies and organizations were in attendance and Departmental updates were provided. Membership information was discussed, including nominations for recognition.

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

### **Kentucky Functional and Access Needs Collaborative Meeting**

The Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Kentucky Functional Access Needs Collaborative meeting on September 14 in Frankfort. The Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer from the Center of Disease Control gave a presentation regarding new updates on the Zika Virus. The group discussed the Kentucky Outreach and Information Network (KOIN) and their role as a person to person network to communicate with the hard-to-reach Functional Access Needs (FAN) population during a crisis. Additional discussion focused on new goals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. Follow up meetings are ongoing as is periodic testing of the KOIN response time with staff from KCDHH responding to notifications 24/7.

*(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.)*

### **Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children**

On September 19, the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Statewide Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children meeting in Burkesville. Updates were given on the Green River Regional Educational Co-op and the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly actions. Panel committees continued to work on ways in which we could get the public more educated about the panel and more involved in its activities.

*(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.)*

### ***Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)***

As a newly appointed member, the Executive Staff Advisor attended the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) quarterly meeting on September 14. During this meeting brief updates were given on the Tobacco Master Settlement, Ready Kids Conference, Kentucky Department of Education Preschool Partnership Grants and the 30 Million Word Gap. Sub committees also gave brief updates and agenda items not heard were tabled for the next meeting in December. This meeting is informational to KCDHH and gives us the opportunity to ensure that the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students are considered.

*(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.)*

### ***Department for Health and Human Services (DHHS) Fall Providers' Symposium***

On September 19, the Information Office Supervisor and the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the DHHS Fall Providers' Symposium in Lexington, a network of providers working to improve the quality of life and effective service delivery to individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and experience behavioral health issues or developmental/intellectual disabilities or substance abuse issues. The Symposium was sponsored by the Kentucky Division of Behavioral Health's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DBHDHHS) Program and the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Kentuckiana chapter. Representatives spoke to the group about new equipment to serve those with hearing loss and agencies connecting with each other to serve deaf or hard of hearing individuals. The Information Coordinator or the Deaf and Hard of Hearing gave a brief summary of KCDHH's Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP), DeaFestival 2016 and other community outreach projects currently in progress. Participants were also given an opportunity to work in small groups to discuss their experiences of confronting their communication difficulties. Resources and information were shared.

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

### ***Transition Age Youth Launching Realized Dreams Conference***

On September 27, the Information Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing attended the Transition Age Youth Launching Realized Dreams (TAYLRD) Conference in Lexington; Kentucky's only transition age youth conference for service providers, parents, and young people. Everyone participated in an activity called "It's a Deaf, Deaf World". Attendees visited various stations such as a grocery store, pharmacy, job interview, disability resource coordinator, etc. At each station the hearing attendees had to communicate with a deaf individual who hosted the station (mimicking the reversal of roles normally experienced by a deaf individual in a hearing world.) The purpose was to have participants feel the communication barriers that deaf and hard of hearing individuals encounter daily. Participants were then given the opportunity to discuss their experiences of confronting the

communication barriers and how they resolved issues. Resources and information was shared regarding obtaining and using American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and other resources for the Deaf community.

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

### ***Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation***

Although unable to attend the quarterly meeting the Internal Policy Analyst III, as Chair of the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation Board, reviewed and approved for signature, regulation changes to be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission through the Cabinet's attorney.

*(3.3 Monitor and initiate legislative issues that affect deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.)*

### ***Hamilton Relay Services***

The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III met with Hamilton staff during the NASRA conference on September 14 to discuss how we can best partner together to do outreach throughout Kentucky. We advised them that we want a more regional approach to outreach and training and brainstormed ideas on how to make this happen. We also discussed partnering to do vlogs/coffee chats to show people how to utilize the captioning app on their iPhone or iPad more effectively. Veterans are a major focus of Hamilton as they partner with "Hero's with Hearing Loss" and they strongly support our initiatives to bring information and resources to more veterans with a hearing loss. The Executive Director plans to share this with the new Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs in Kentucky and get the information posted on their website as well as KCDHH's.

*(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.**

### ***London – Town Hall Meeting***

The Executive Director and Executive Staff Interpreter attended a Town Hall meeting held on July 23 at the London Community Center. About 45 community members were present and after a short presentation by the Executive Director regarding KCDHH's goals for the upcoming year, constituents posed questions about their concerns in dealing with hospitals, doctors and attorney's when requesting interpreters and their concerns for the lack of job opportunities in their part of the state. Consumers also posed additional questions about the role of KCDHH and why staff is not more visible in the Eastern

Kentucky area. Concerns were noted that more one-on-one interaction is needed in that part of the state so that resources and services offered by KCDHH can be best utilized.

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

### **National Hands & Voices Conference**



The Executive Staff Advisor attended the National Hands & Voices (H&V) conference in Estes Park, Colorado on September 15-20. The purpose was to network with H&V staff and members from other states to see how their chapters function and learn about new practices in the field, with the goal of improving individual state chapters. Various speakers gave presentations and workshops. Particular interest was a presentation regarding a project entitled "Common Ground." This was a panel presentation composed of individuals representing both oral and residential schools from various states who have come together to set aside their differences and focus on their common needs in order to prevent deaf and hard of hearing children and their families from falling through the cracks or receiving inappropriate services. This program was started in Washington State and they are currently applying for funding which would allow them to broaden their reach and assist other states in implementing the same program. Very valuable information was obtained on coordinating services for children and families that utilize all modes of communication.

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

### **Flaget Hospital Health Fair**

KCDHH provided materials for the Bardstown Chapter/Louisville Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) to pass out on September 24 during a health fair in Bardstown. HLAA hosted the booth and stated there was a good turnout. We received about 12 referrals to TAP and several general requests from the information provided.

*(4.4 Increase education and awareness regarding available assistive devices for deaf and hard of hearing persons.)*