

**Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Advisory Committee
on the Need for Services for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

The Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 from 12:30-3:30 at the Kentucky Correctional Industries located in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Nancy Perry, Committee Chairperson, welcomed members and visitors. Roll Call was taken which confirmed quorum along with approval of proxies. Approval of February 2017 minutes was made. The Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet in May 2017; however, a quorum was not established and the meeting was cancelled at that time.

Julie Dalbom, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee, provided training for members of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Dalbom gave an overview of diagnoses and issues in Centerstone clients. Centerstone is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit providers of community-based behavioral health care, offering a full range of mental health services, substance abuse treatment and intellectual and developmental disabilities services in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. Additional information can be found at <http://centerstoneky.org/>.

Michelle Niehaus, Program Administrator for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, provided Departmental Updates, reviewed old business, and made announcements about upcoming events.

Ms. Niehaus distributed hard copies of the 2017 Biennial Report. This report is required by KRS 210.031 and mandates the Advisory Committee to communicate progress and needs to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the legislature.

As reported by Ms. Niehaus, the 2017 Biennial Report addresses four main points:

1. Describes the accommodations and the mental health, intellectual disability, developmental disability, and substance abuse services made accessible to deaf and hard of hearing persons.
2. Reports the number of deaf or hard of hearing persons served.
3. Identifies additional service needs for the deaf and hard of hearing; and
4. Identifies a plan to address unmet service needs.

An electronic copy of the 2017 Biennial Report is available upon request. Individuals interested in receiving the report should contact their Advisory Committee representative or contact Ms. Niehaus at the following address: Michelle.Niehaus@ky.gov

Announcements:

According to Ms. Niehaus, Governor Bevin's office has not announced any new appointments to the Advisory Committee. Presently those whose terms have expired will continue serving on the Advisory Committee until announcements are made. Currently there are two Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member at Large vacancies, Alexander Graham Bell Association vacancy, and two pending re-appointments.

Hearing Loss Association of America is hosting Kentucky Walk 4 Hearing. This event will take place Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Beckley Creek Park in Louisville, Kentucky. Carla Trivedi is the event chair and can be contacted at Carla.trivedi@gmail.com. Ms. Niehaus suggested the Advisory Committee members form a team for the Walk. Interested Advisory Committee members should contact Ms. Niehaus.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held November 15, 2017 from 12:30-3:30 in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Additional information about the Kentucky Division of Behavioral Health, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee for Mental Health Services can be located at their website: <http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/dhhs-advisory.aspx>

Jeannie Taylor
HLAA Representative
DBH DHHS Advisory Committee