



## **155th Quarterly Meeting: Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Meeting:**

### **Highlights**

The 155th quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) was held on Friday, October 27th, from 2:00 to 5:00 at the Powell County Public Library, 725 Breckenridge Street, Stanton, Kentucky.

Ms. Amy Hatzel, Executive Board Chair, presided over the meeting and welcomed commissioners and guests to the meeting. After roll call, Ms. Hatzel requested that the commissioners review the minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting held July 21, 2017, in Frankfort, Kentucky. Following the acceptance of the Quarterly Meeting minutes, the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting held on September 1, 2017, were reviewed and accepted as well.

Ms. Virginia Moore, Executive Director, reported on KCDHH's quarterly activities from July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

### **Budget**

As predicted the state has asked that agencies make preparations for a possible double-digit funding cut for the upcoming fiscal year of 2017-18. If the budget cut goes through, then the ability for staff to complete the mandates, goals, and priorities of agency will be significantly impacted.

### **Regulations**

KCDHH remains proactive in the area of legislative activity by reviewing regulations and regulation amendments that may impact KCDHH consumers. By taking an active interest, KCDHH remains prepared to intervene if necessary and appropriate.

### **Other Areas of Interest**

KCDHH continues their interest and involvement in developing a national training curriculum for teaching law enforcement officers appropriate methods of communicating with deaf and

hard of hearing individuals when pulled over in vehicles, approached on the street or in other situations where law enforcement interactions are necessary. Ms. Moore, who currently serves on the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH), has been instrumental in raising awareness and encouraging interest in development of this training.

KCDHH is currently producing a series of self-advocacy V-Logs in cooperation with the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) department. The V-Logs are captioned and produced with sign language interpreters and are now available on the KCDHH and P&A website.

V-Log topics include: *Introduction to P&A; P&A: Education; P&A: Youth; and Senior Care Facilities*. Other V-Logs recently produced were KCDHH 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Kentucky's Solar Eclipse, Cornhole Tournament, and Town Hall Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park. KCDHH's V-Logs can be viewed at <https://kcdhh.ky.gov/> .

During the third quarter, KCDHH has visited Bardstown and LaGrange as part of its state-wide Community Connect regional outreach project. The purpose of Community Connect is to inform attendees about KCDHH programs and services raise awareness of the need for consumers to learn how to advocate for themselves which includes knowing their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and their civil rights. KCDHH is also promoting the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) and other resources available to deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Annual Report was submitted to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) as mandated by statute. This report has been posted on KCDHH's website:

<https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/publications/tapreport/2017TAPAnnualReport.pdf>

Presently there are two HLAA members serving on the TAP Advisory Board: Gerry Gordon Brown, TAP Advisory Board Chair and Marilyn Fenwick, Hard of Hearing Consumer.

### **Additional Quarterly Activities Supporting KCDHH Goals**

- Diversity Day at Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Louisville - *Meeting*
- Kentucky Rehabilitation Association Conference – *Meeting in Owensboro*
- Hear It Here Conference – *Meeting*
- ADA 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – *Resource Fair*
- 2017 Falls and Osteoporosis Summit – *KCDHH Presentation*
- Kentucky Academy of Audiology Conference – *Meeting*
- Kentucky State Fair 2017 – *Outreach Event*
- Hands & Voices Deaf Awareness Day at the Louisville Zoo – *Outreach Event*
- Bluegrass Area Laryngectomy Conference – *Outreach Event*
- Green River Senior Day Out - *Outreach Event*
- BBQ on the River – *Outreach Event*
- University of Kentucky Retirees Resource Fair – *Outreach Event*
- Resident Appreciation Day at Village Park Duvalle – *Outreach Event*

- National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Conference – *Meeting*
- National Association of State Relay Administrators - *Meeting*
- Emergency Preparedness Meetings (*Topics included: Solar Eclipse, Kentucky's Opioid Crisis, Harm Reduction Program, and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness*) - *Meeting*
- Hands & Voices Annual Leadership Conference – *Meeting*
- Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) – *Meeting*
- “Engage for Change” – *This meeting focused on issues regarding the lack of resources and support for deaf and hard of hearing students seeking suitable employment and/or attending college. Another meeting will be held November 2017.*
- Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Meeting*
- Community Advocates – *Meeting*
- National Hearing Loss Association of America Walk4Hearing Kickoff – *Meeting*
- 35<sup>th</sup> KCDHH Anniversary – *Celebration & Outreach Event*

## **KCDHH Study Groups**

### ➤ **12 Education Study Group** **Chair: Amy Hatzel**

*Chair, Mrs. Amy Hatzel, reported that phone meetings are in process with Lexington Hearing and Speech Center, Heuser Hearing Institute and Kentucky School for the Deaf in order to explain the new focus and goals of the Education Study Group. The purpose of the group is to improve educational outcomes for students with hearing loss being served in both residential and mainstream settings by providing complete access to language (spoken or signed) and to support systems that families and educators need to establish maximum individual access to instruction. The next step will be to establish a meeting date to bring all of the stakeholders together for initial dialogue and planning, as well as, continue to identify other potential stakeholders.*

### ➤ **Needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Citizens** **Chair: Michelle Niehaus**

*According to Mrs. Niehaus, the overall purpose of the group is to bring together stakeholders from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities as well as state and private agencies serving the population of aging adults in order to identify gaps in services, map existing resources, and develop a plan for addressing these issues strategically so that our valued elders do not spend their last years in isolation or undue hardship.*

*Since the previous KCDHH Quarterly Meeting the following actions have been taken:*

- *Developed the “Contact Information for Kentucky Senior Citizens Coalition” form to develop a database of interested seniors and caregivers.*
- *Coordinated a workshop for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seniors and Caregivers.*
- *Met with Sherry Culp, Kentucky State Long Term Care Ombudsman.*
- *Added a new video to KCDHH’s Coffee Chat V-Log series: “Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency: Senior Care Facilities”.*

## **Other Announcements and Additional Actions of the Commission Board**

- A Town Hall Meeting was held at Natural Bridge State Park in Slade Kentucky on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- KCDHH Commissioners attended a four hour work session from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, to discuss KCDHH’s Strategic Plan.
- Kentucky Walk4Hearing will be held Saturday, November 4, 2017. Additional information can be found on the following website:  
[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr\\_id=2435&pg=entry](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2435&pg=entry)
- The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at KCDHH Conference Room on December 8, 2017 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.
- The 156th Quarterly Commission Meeting will be held on January 28, 2018 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. The location is to be determined.
- Executive Board election of officers was held before the conclusion of the 155<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting. The newly elected Executive Board members are as follows:

*Jeannie Taylor (HLAA), Chair*  
*Holly O’Mary (Service Provider), Vice Chair*  
*Barbie Harris (KAD), Secretary*  
*Amy Hatzel (RID), Member-at-Large*  
*Michelle Niehaus (KYBHDID), Member-at-Large*

## **In Closing**

The 155th Quarterly Board Meeting was adjourned.

[www.kcdhh.ky.gov](http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov)

Jeannie Taylor, Commissioner  
 HLAA Representative  
 October 31, 2017