

**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, December 6, 2017 from 12:30-3:30 at the Kentucky Correctional Industries located in Frankfort, Kentucky. The Advisory Committee's annual potluck was held beginning at 11:30. This event provided the Advisory Committee an opportunity to make individual recognitions for outstanding contributions of service to the DHH community and to express gratitude as well.

Recognition of the 2017 Champion for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) was announced by Michelle Niehaus, Program Administrator. This annual recognition is presented to an individual/s or organization who have assisted in and/or promoted positive change within the Deaf and hard of hearing community. The 'champion' believes in change, is driven by vision, and is energized by the passion for change and improvement. They promote new ideas; problem solves to remove barriers; and motivates others to do the same. The 2017 Champion for DHHS recognition was awarded to two individuals: Carla Trivedi and Cara Martinez. Mrs. Trivedi was congratulated on her role as project chair for the first in the state Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Walk4Hearing which was held in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 4, 2017. Ms. Martinez was recognized for her work in the Language Services Department for KentuckyOne Health. She created a team where communication assessments, rounding on patients, and ensuring language access was priority. Her work in this area provided an important vision and model for language access in medical services.

Nancy Perry, Committee Chairperson, welcomed members and visitors. Roll Call was taken which confirmed quorum along with approval of proxies. Committee members approved the minutes for the August, 2017 meeting.

Mary Begley, AWARE Coordinator at Kentucky School for the Deaf, provided training for members of the Advisory Committee. AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education) is a grant program designed to help state and local education agencies:

- Increase awareness of mental health issues among school-age youth
- Train educators and other youth-serving adults to detect and respond to mental health issues
- Connect children, youth, and families who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services

Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) is currently in the implementation process of this grant which is set to expire October 2019. It is a school-based initiative which includes collaboration with community partners to provide resources, training, and support to improve school safety, improve school climate, increase awareness of mental health issues, and to link children and youth with needed services and meaningful, effective supports. Mrs. Begley reported that one in five children and teens nationwide struggle with a mental disorder and most do not receive the services they need. KSD also incorporates Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) which is utilized by Project AWARE to achieve its goals. The underlying theme of PBIS is teaching behavioral expectations which are positively stated and easy to remember. Rather than telling students what not to do, the school focuses on the preferred behaviors. KSD uses the acronym **PRIDE** which serves to remind student of desired behavior expectations and rules: **P**ositive, **R**esponsible, **I**ndependent, **D**emonstrate Respect, and **E**ffort.

Additional information about Project AWARE can be found at the following websites:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/nitt-ta/project-aware-grant-information>

<https://education.ky.gov/school/Documents/Kentucky%20AWARE%20YMHFA.pdf>

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

Announcements:

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.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be held February 21, 2018 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
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DBH DHHS Advisory Committee