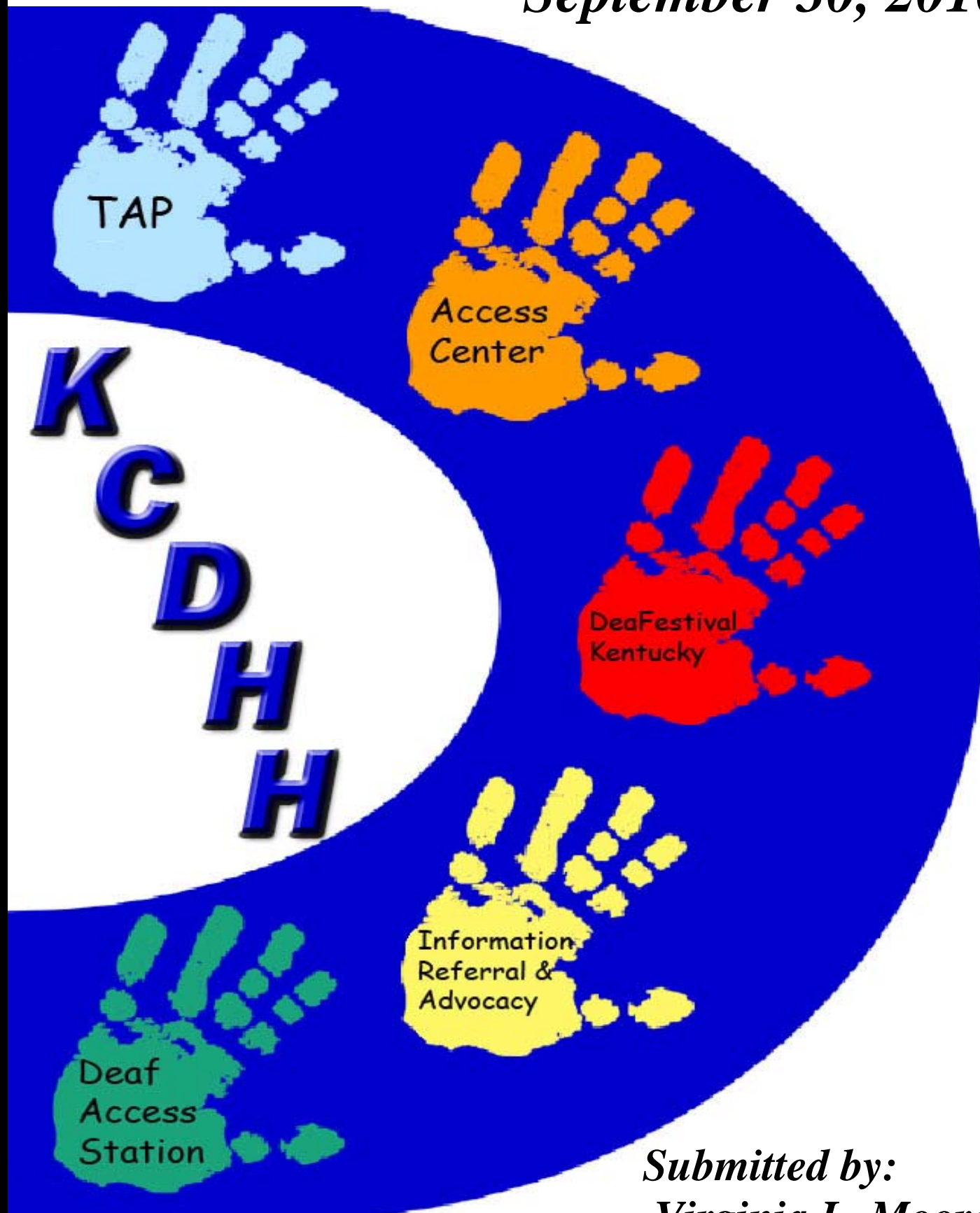


*Agency Report July 1 through
September 30, 2010*



*Submitted by:
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KCDHH Quarterly Activities

June 1, 2010, through September 30, 2010

DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010



The city of Horse Cave survived its first DeaFestival-Kentucky while the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) staff chalked up another successful event! The decision to change the venue from Louisville to Horse Cave brought a more “down home” feel to the festival’s activities while everyone enjoyed the story-perfect weather all weekend. KCDHH worked with staff from local attractions; Dinosaur World, Kentucky Down Under, Mammoth Cave and the American Cave Museum, while working in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to provide sign language interpreters for tours. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals took advantage of the event-packed weekend and brought the entire family to Horse Cave.

The Information Office Supervisor and Interpreter Referral Specialist presented Deafness 101 training in Horse Cave and Cave City to prepare the residents and proprietors for the surge of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who attended DeaFestival.

The presentations focused on very basic concepts related to hearing loss including the diversity of needs, communication choices, accommodations and appropriate labels. The audience responded very well to the presentations and was more than willing to accommodate our attendees. Prior to September 4th, the Heritage Arts Center in Horse Cave offered its artist studio to display deaf and hard of hearing artwork from famous artists such as Chuck Baird, Tony McGregor, Dick Moore and Velda Taylor, just to name a few and gave the local community a taste of DeaFestival for two weeks.

DeaFestival 2010 was an exciting event as new artists and performers joined the festivities. Deaf and hard of hearing artists overran the Thomas House while art lovers deliberated over which piece would be the best to purchase to remember this DeaFestival. As part of the Children’s Program, Peter Cook orchestrated a crocodile composed of fairgoers that caroused through the center of town and led the way to the Children’s tent. Then children made their way from the Children’s Program and packed the exhibitor alley as Kamp Kessa staff performed equine activities with live horses. SpotLights featured many well-known performers, including Pinky Aiello, the Anderson Twins, Roy Farmer and Sean Forbes. Festivalgoers were also treated to a premier of the Deaf Documentary, “See What I am Saying” and the four prominent

performers, CJ Jones, Bob Hilberman, TL Forsberg and Robert DeMayo signed autographed posters and answered questions from the audience. Everyone knows that missing a University of Kentucky vs. University of Louisville game is blasphemy to the Commonwealth, so DeaFestival provided the Sports Cave for people to view the rivalry on two flat screen televisions. The Jam Tent, a new addition to this year's festival showcased deaf and hard of hearing musicians and dancers such as Wa Wa Snipe, Jarrell Robinson and Beethoven's Nightmare as the soon to be nationally famous Sean Forbes emceed the evening's events.

Attendance for DeaFestival 2010 was estimated between 4,800 to 5,000 participants. While this number is not as high as previous festivals, it was anticipated to be lower with the new venue location and the declining economy. While moving DeaFestival to a more remote location meant bringing in additional resources, detailed logistics and facing tougher hills to climb, it also brought the satisfaction of a job well done. As always, sponsors generously contributed to the event and provided valuable information at their booths where new technology was demonstrated and questions answered. AT&T, Hamilton Relay, ZVRS, and Jitterbug along with many community sponsors, allowed us to keep DeaFestival a free event for all who attend. We applaud the numerous volunteers, staff and Commissioners who worked to make DeaFestival – KY 2010 truly a mammoth adventure!

State Fair

During July and August, the Executive Director and Information Office Supervisor attended meetings with Heuser Hearing Institute (HHI) and Hamilton Relay to coordinate logistics and Public Relations (PR) efforts for the 2010 Kentucky State Fair. The Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended the opening ceremonies held for sponsors to roll out the state fair as KCDHH again collaborated with these partners to provide a fully interactive booth during the 10-day event from August 19 – 29. At the booth, the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) displayed specialized telecommunications equipment and allowed interested individuals to test available telephones. The Jitterbug, one of the recently added wireless devices, was available as well and many questions were answered regarding the iPhone, Blackberry Bold and Motorola Backflip that have been added to the TAP.

Hamilton Relay demonstrated the ever-popular captioned telephones, CapTel 800 and 800i. KCDHH also demonstrated videophone technology, distributed information on advocacy and referral services, and provided copies of the Directory of Services. HHI provided free hearing screenings and otoscope testing and referred any fairgoer who received results indicating hearing loss to KCDHH, Hamilton and the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) for information and support. Members of the Kentucky chapter of HLAA volunteered their time each day to assist individuals, provide information on hearing loss and empower consumers to ensure they receive

appropriate services and equal access in all facets of life. KCDHH staff, Commissioners, volunteers, interpreters and partnering agencies put forth the effort needed to reach those Kentuckians in need of the equipment, resources and services. KCDHH handled approximately 120 requests resulting from the state fair.

National Association of the Deaf Conference

During July 5-10, the Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended the 50th Biennial Conference of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in Philadelphia, PA. KCDHH participated as an exhibitor and distributed information about the agency and DeaFestival and proudly announced Louisville as the site of the 2012 NAD conference. NAD offered more than 70 workshops including: Internet Video Captioning, Providing Mobile Communication Solutions, Traits of Deaf Leadership, State Agencies Partnerships with Advocates During Tough Fiscal Years, System Changes in Early Detection and Intervention, Communication in a Broadband World, Corporate Best Practices, New Developments from the FCC on Telecommunications Relay Services, Tactics for Grassroots Advocacy Campaigns and Advocating for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Education Matters.

Prior to the conference, the Executive Director worked with a select group of other directors of state commissions for the deaf and hard of hearing to establish the first National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) Directors' Biennial Meeting. The purpose of NASADHH, which represents 39 states, is to function as the national voice of state agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing people and promote the implementation of best practices in the provision of services. The Executive Director attended the meeting on behalf of Kentucky and agreed to host the next meeting scheduled for 2012 to coincide with the next NAD conference. The group discussed the best method to obtain accurate demographic information, how to acquire additional funding through federal grants, and how to strengthen advocacy services for our consumers. The directors developed bylaws and structures for the board and elected interim officers to serve for two years until the next meeting is held in Louisville. The Internal Policy Analyst III served as note taker for the meeting and provided summary's to the states that participated.

Legislation

On August 13, the Executive Director, Internal Policy Analyst III, Information Office Supervisor and several Commissioners attended the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center (LHSC) fundraising event in Nicholasville. The Executive Director of LHSC had met with KCDHH's Executive Director and requested that we collaborate with them to make the event fully accessible. The fundraiser drew individuals and legislators from all over Kentucky, and the Executive Director and KCDHH Commissioners were able to meet with key legislators such as the speaker of the house Greg Stumbo and Majority

Floor Leader, Rocky Atkins to advise them of KCDHH's mission and current initiatives and requested their support during the 2011 Legislative session. President William Jefferson Clinton spoke at the event and KCDHH provided interpreter and captioning services as part of the partnership with LHSC.

Budget Cuts:

To prepare for budgetary shortfalls identified by the Governor and General Assembly, KCDDH was required to submit a proposed budget reduction of 1.5% from general funds and a 1.5% from restricted funds. The proposal also included information as to how we plan to reduce spending in targeted areas to absorb the reductions. On September 29, the Executive Director was notified that the reduction would be implemented and \$12,300 was transferred from General funds and \$12,300 from Restricted funds to meet the required budget cut.

On August 28, the Finance and Administration Cabinet sent notification to all leased property owners, of which KCDHH is one, requesting that rent payments for FY 2011 be reduced by 5%. The Executive Director discussed this with a representative from Finance and Administration and the property owner accepted the 5% reduction effective October 1, 2010, allowing KCDHH to remain in its current location.

Personnel:

As another budgetary reduction measure, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring all state employees to ensure furloughs rather than mass layoffs of personnel. Pursuant to 101 KAR 5:015E state executive branch employees have been designated a total of six furlough days during FY 2011. Per the furlough schedule requirements, three common days for all state agencies for a total shut down days are:

September 3, 2010 / alternate date for KCDHH **September 7, 2010**
November 12, 2010
May 27, 2011

Three additional days were determined by each state agency within the month of October, March and June. To minimize the disruption of services to our consumers, KCDHH proposed to half-staff the office on the following dates to meet the additional mandated furlough dates.

Friday, October 8, 2010 and Monday, October 11, 2010
Friday, March 4, 2011 and Monday, March 7, 2010
Friday, June 17, 2011 and Monday, June 20, 2011

As ongoing management of the budget shortfall continues, agencies heads were directed to more stringently manage employees work hours and overtime is not to be allowed unless the Cabinet Secretary grants prior written approval.

The Executive Staff Advisor position has been approved to be filled and the register was pulled on August 28. By filling this position with an experience individual, the overall workload for current agency staff can be better managed.

KCDHH GOALS



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

Access Center Assignments

Requests	Filled /pending Assignments	Cancelled Assignments	Interpreting Hours	# of contacts required to fill assignments
AC: Request for Interpreting	88	1	772	13
AC: Request for Captioning	8	0	29	7
AC: Request for Videoconference Interpreting	0	0	0	0

National Certification Opportunities

As a testing supersite for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), KCDHH hosted four Performance exam dates and one SC: L (legal expertise) Knowledge exam during the quarter. In all, 12 individuals tested. The Interpreter Referral Specialist began developing a plan to encourage interested individuals in eastern Kentucky to take the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) exams as certified and licensed sign language interpreters are scarce in that region. The plan includes a workshop for those interested in taking the NIC exams and meeting with individuals who are interested in becoming an interpreter to encourage expansion of the profession.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Activities

Request	Applicants Receiving Equipment	Pieces of Equipment Distributed	Pending Order / Waiting List
TAP: Applying for STE	172	343	315

Wireless Device Update

During the past quarter, KCDHH and AT&T continued to negotiate for the best plan for inclusion of wireless devices in the TAP. The previously negotiated plan had a hidden limitation with regard to text messaging and once discovered, negotiations continued until unlimited text could be included. A monthly service was agreed upon with the Finance and Administration Cabinet, which includes:

- 2 GB of data
- Unlimited text messaging
- 100 voice minutes
- 2-year warranty

Qualified deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf blind individuals may choose from one of four devices and \$450.00 will be set up in a designated account with either AT&T or Jitterbug for each individual. If used responsibly, without overages to the limitations above, the consumer can expect to receive 12 months of service. During the last two months of service the provider (AT&T or Jitterbug) will contact the consumer and allow him/her to establish an ongoing contract at the \$35 a month rate. Once the initial funds are exhausted, the consumer is responsible to maintain the monthly service plan on their own. If the consumer chooses not to continue the plan, or service is disconnected, the \$35 a month offer is void. Consumers are not allowed to modify the plan and family plans are not available. Personal contracts currently in effect cannot be transferred to this plan. Consumers are required to sign an agreement with KCDHH, indicating their understanding of these terms, before they qualify for equipment.

TAP Outreach

On July 24 and August 14, the Administrative Specialist II attended health fairs at Main St. Baptist Church and Shiloh Baptist Church, both in Lexington. Along with other vendors and service providers, KCDHH set up a booth with information on TAP. This was the first time KCDHH attended the health fairs held at these local churches and the agency tapped into a new audience. KCDHH explained the functions, services and programs offered while highlighting the amplified phones, signalers and wireless devices that would soon be available.

On September 29, the Administrative Specialist II met with the director of the Jessamine County Senior Center to explain about TAP, the ordering process and demonstrate the available equipment. The application process and all documentation needed to complete the application were explained in detail. The crowd responded with many questions and commented on the program's benevolence.



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

Infant and Toddler Conference

On August 10 – 11, the Executive Secretary II and Information Program Coordinator attended the Infant and Toddler Conference held at the Lexington Center. KCDHH provided information on TAP; agency functions, programs and services; and the parent-driven organization Hands & Voices. Since communication is critical during early stages of development in children, KCDHH targeted service providers and educators at this conference who work with infants and toddlers to ensure they remain informed of all options and services available.

Agencies for Aging

On September 27 -28, KCDHH had a booth at the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies for Aging (SE4A) at the Galt House in Louisville. The Information Program Coordinator and Administrative Specialist II staffed the booth and demonstrated TAP equipment with the phone evaluator to allow people to test the equipment and encourage them to order a phone. The Executive Director and Internal Police Analyst III attended these conference workshops as participants. This regional advocacy association was formed to provide agencies, advocates and service providers with information and training regarding the needs of older adults. Facilitators provided informational workshops covering topics such as health and wellness, workforce issues, innovative programming, legal and advocacy, administration and management of information and benefits for seniors.

Public Relations Output

The Office of Information Services focuses on PR efforts and outreach activities to increase awareness of services offered by KCDHH. Quarterly activities are listed below.

Date	Type of Communication	Topic of Public Relations Announcements and Outreach Activities	# Items Distributed
July 2	eBlitz	Sent to constituents announcing the success of the captioned movie shown in Pikeville for the first time.	1,617
July 14	eBlitz	Sent to constituents announcing the upcoming Deaf Women's Leadership Institute.	1,219
July 18	eBlitz	Sent to constituents announcing the coming of DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010.	3,112
July 20	eBlitz	Emailed the July issue of The Communicator to constituents.	3,104
July 21	Outreach	Administrative Specialist II worked a KCDHH booth during a health fair at Main Street Baptist Church in	380

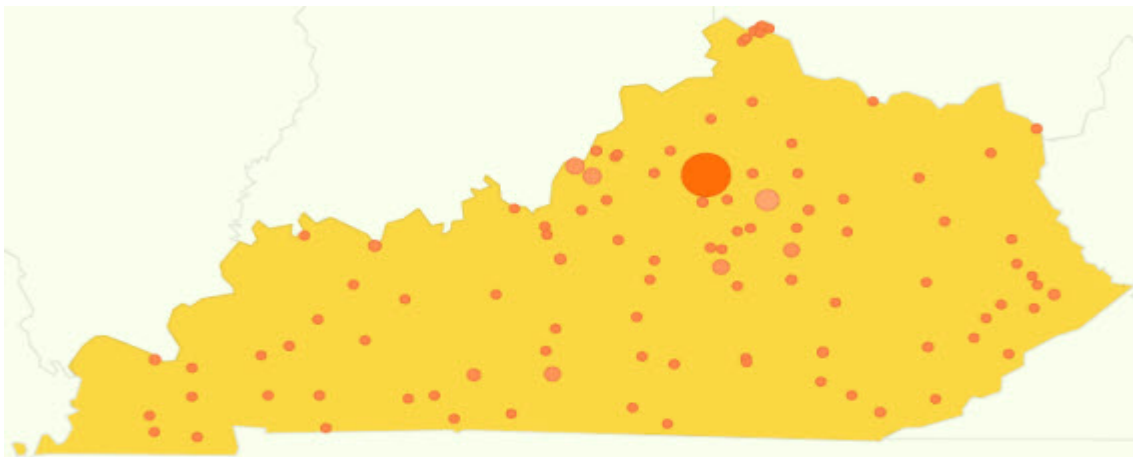
		Lexington, KY. Items disseminated included KCDHH pens, Blow Pops, hand sanitizer, TAP flyers and KCDHH flyers.	
July 23	Mail	Mailed hard copies of July issue of The Communicator to constituents	593
July 24	Outreach	Administrative Specialist II worked a KCDHH booth during a health fair at Main Street Baptist Church in Lexington. Items disseminated included KCDHH pens, Blow Pops, hand sanitizers, TAP flyers, and KCDHH flyers.	600
Aug. 2	eBlitz	Sent the official DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 press release to constituents.	3,095
Aug. 9	eBlitz	Sent to constituents with updated DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 information and news.	3,087
Aug. 10 - 11	Outreach	Information Program Coordinator and Executive Secretary II worked a KCDHH booth during the Infant and Toddler Institute Conference held at the Lexington Center. Items disseminated included Directory of Services, KCDHH pens, child ID kits, TAP flyers and KCDHH flyers.	600
Aug. 13	eBlitz	Sent to constituents with updated DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 information and news.	3,087
Aug. 14	Outreach	Administrative Specialist II worked a KCDHH booth during a health fair at Shiloh Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. Items disseminated included Directory of Services, KCDHH pens, hand sanitizers, TAP flyers and KCDHH flyers.	410
Aug. 19-29	Outreach	KCDHH staff, Commissioners and volunteers worked the KCDHH booth at the KY State Fair in Louisville, KY. Items disseminated included Directory of Services, American Sign Language flyers, TAP flyers, KCDHH flyers, spatulas, Blow Pops, ice scrapers, emery boards, Puzzled key chains and hand sanitizers.	6,230
Aug. 28	eBlitz	Sent to constituents announcing the screening of "See What I'm Saying" at DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010.	3,056
Sept. 24	eBlitz	Sent announcement encouraging attendance at the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness conference, particularly the entertainment portion of this event which will feature DeaFestival performers.	3,085
Sept. 25	eBlitz	Sent to constituents announcing the entertainment evening at the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness Conference scheduled to be held in Louisville.	3,085
Sept. 27-28	Outreach	Information Program Coordinator and Administrative Specialist II worked a KCDHH booth during the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging in Louisville. Items disseminated included Directory of Services, TAP flyers, KCDHH flyers, KCDHH pens, Deaf Resource Library Flyers and TAP inserts.	1,070
		TOTAL	37,430

KCDHH Web Counter Hits

According to the recent Google Analytics Site Usage report, the KCDHH Web site experienced 13,224 visits between July 1 and September 30, 2010, including visits from 100 Kentucky cities and an average of 2.5 pages visited per visit. This represents a nearly 300 percent increase in visits over the last quarter with a more than 100 percent increase in pages viewed per visit.

Remarkably, the visits from within Kentucky became more evenly distributed throughout the state, a trend that began nearly a year ago and continues today due to KCDHH outreach efforts. The significant increase in visits was largely due to DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 and the upcoming distribution of wireless devices in the TAP. Of the 33,004 total page views in this quarter, 16,341 were from the DeaFestival section of the Web site and 2,933 were from the forms and TAP sections. KCDHH also logged 2,828 Facebook visits while the DeaFestival logged 1,051.

The following graph shows the demographics of Web hits from July 1 – September 30, 2010.



This state sent 7,368 visits via 100 cities

Detail Level: City Dimension: None

Site Usage Goal Set 1 Views: [Grid] [List] [Table] [Chart]

Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate	
7,368 % of Site Total: 56.16%	2.59 Site Avg: 2.50 (3.55%)	00:03:03 Site Avg: 00:02:54 (5.46%)	42.67% Site Avg: 52.78% (-19.15%)	51.43% Site Avg: 52.36% (-1.78%)	
Detail Level: City	Visits ↓	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
1. Frankfort	2,469	2.10	00:02:22	17.29%	64.48%
2. Lexington	850	2.54	00:02:59	55.29%	48.24%
3. Louisville	517	2.83	00:03:21	58.22%	42.55%
4. Jefferson County	512	2.62	00:03:20	49.61%	44.53%
5. Danville	410	3.11	00:03:46	44.63%	40.24%
6. Glasgow	387	3.15	00:03:35	53.75%	44.70%
7. Richmond	352	3.80	00:04:57	37.78%	43.75%
8. Bowling Green	210	2.15	00:01:55	70.48%	60.95%
9. Owensboro	158	3.34	00:04:46	59.49%	30.38%
10. Pikeville	110	2.25	00:01:28	22.73%	48.18%

Filter City: containing [] Go: Advanced Filter Go to: 1 Show rows: 10 1 - 10 of 100

A couple of interesting developments should be noted. For the first time since KCDHH began using Google Analytics, KCDHH received visits from every state in the United States. In addition, in this quarter alone, KCDHH received visits from 53 countries with the top five countries being Canada, United Kingdom, Nigeria, France and India.

This country/territory sent 12,864 visits via 52 regions

Detail Level: City | Region Dimension: None

Site Usage Goal Set 1 Views: [Grid] [List] [Table] [Chart]

Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
12,864 % of Site Total: 98.05%	2.52 Site Avg: 2.50 (0.73%)	00:02:56 Site Avg: 00:02:54 (1.02%)	52.39% Site Avg: 52.78% (-0.75%)	52.05% Site Avg: 52.36% (-0.59%)

Detail Level: Region	Visits ↓	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
1. Kentucky	7,368	2.59	00:03:03	42.67%	51.43%
2. New York	711	2.12	00:02:21	57.52%	58.37%
3. Indiana	700	2.66	00:03:23	65.43%	46.86%
4. Tennessee	542	2.46	00:02:41	65.31%	52.77%
5. Ohio	524	3.06	00:03:38	62.21%	47.52%
6. California	339	2.19	00:02:21	67.85%	61.06%
7. Illinois	325	2.29	00:02:59	59.38%	49.54%
8. Georgia	260	2.37	00:02:33	58.08%	51.54%
9. Texas	204	3.14	00:03:11	60.29%	38.24%
10. Florida	198	2.23	00:01:57	80.81%	52.53%

Filter Region: containing [] Go Advanced Filter Go to: 1 Show rows: 10 1 - 10 of 52

13,120 visits came from 54 countries/territories

Detail Level: City | Country/Territory | Sub Continent Region | Continent Dimension: None

Site Usage Goal Set 1 Views: [Grid] [List] [Table] [Chart]

Visits	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
13,120 % of Site Total: 100.00%	2.50 Site Avg: 2.50 (0.00%)	00:02:54 Site Avg: 00:02:54 (0.00%)	52.90% Site Avg: 52.78% (0.22%)	52.36% Site Avg: 52.36% (0.00%)

Detail Level: Country/Territory	Visits ↓	Pages/Visit	Avg. Time on Site	% New Visits	Bounce Rate
1. United States	12,864	2.52	00:02:56	52.39%	52.05%
2. Canada	65	1.62	00:01:53	75.38%	61.54%
3. (not set)	26	1.62	00:02:23	26.92%	61.54%
4. United Kingdom	16	1.38	00:00:36	93.75%	62.50%
5. Nigeria	15	1.53	00:01:53	93.33%	73.33%
6. France	14	1.64	00:00:34	100.00%	64.29%
7. India	9	2.33	00:02:49	88.89%	66.67%
8. Germany	9	1.33	00:00:04	88.89%	77.78%
9. Australia	8	2.12	00:06:38	100.00%	75.00%
10. Russia	8	1.12	00:00:00	87.50%	87.50%

Filter Country/Territory: containing [] Go Advanced Filter Go to: 1 Show rows: 10 1 - 10 of 54

Information and Referral Requests

The Office of Information Services documented 1453 requests during this quarter.

Nature	Closed Requests	Pending Requests	Incomplete Requests	Incoming Contacts	Outgoing Contacts
AC: Evaluations	8	2	0	29	22
AC: Request for Captioner	5	3	0	29	29
AC: Request for Interpreter	73	15	1	572	581
Administration	6	1	0	7	6
DeaFestival	26	0	0	27	23
IRA: ASL & Linguistics	30	0	0	30	31
IRA: Deaf Culture	1	0	0	1	2
IRA: Deafness & Hearing Loss	52	0	0	54	80
IRA: Demographics & Statistics	2	0	0	2	3
IRA: Education	0	0	1	1	3
IRA: Employment	1	0	1	2	3
IRA: Families & Children	1	0	0	1	1
IRA: Human Services	12	0	2	14	19
IRA: Interpreting	26	2	2	47	38
IRA: Legal Rights of Deaf and HOH	26	1	0	43	58
IRA: Outreach	13	0	0	16	15
IRA: Technology	44	1	0	49	60
Information Technology	0	0	0	0	0
Library	0	0	0	0	0
PUB: Communicator	0	0	0	0	0
PUB: KCDHH Publications	0	0	0	0	0
PUB: Directory of Services	7	0	0	7	7
PUB: Visor Cards	33	0	0	33	45
TAP: Outreach	1	0	0	1	1
TAP: Received Application for STE	116	249	0	659	682
TAP: Received Equipment	90	0	0	93	2
TAP: Repair	17	0	0	22	8
TAP: Send TAP Application	539	3	0	616	529
TAP: Status Check	40	0	0	59	17
TOTAL	1169	277	7	2414	2265



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.

Captioned Movies

On July 7, both Information Program Coordinators attended the first closed-captioned movie shown at Riverfill 10 Cinema in Pikeville. The deaf and hard of hearing individuals who attended the movie were ecstatic to have a movie fully accessible to them. This closed-captioned movie was a landmark event as the efforts of Kentucky constituents and KCDHH demanding equal access to movies shown in public theaters through out the Commonwealth came to a partial fruition with access in Eastern KY now a reality. KCDHH efforts continue as the Commission study group focused on Captioned Movie access was approved to continue legislative efforts to pursue access statewide.

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention

The Executive Director and Information Office Supervisor attended an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Board meeting on July 15. EHDI programs provided the following 2010 statistics for Kentucky. Ninety-nine percent of newborns (born in hospitals with 40+ annual births) had their hearing screened before they left the hospital or if born outside of the hospital, within one month of age. A total of 54,235 hearing screen report forms were submitted to the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs. Of the infants screened, 7,164 were at risk for hearing loss. Of the at-risk infants, 2,661 were referred with a loss in one or both ears. While 4,903 of the at-risk newborns passed, they still had indicators that put them in a higher risk category for developing later onset progressive loss. Thirty-one children were reported to EHDI with identified permanent childhood hearing loss. Even though many newborns are referred to EHDI, many of them are lost to follow up. The number pending on the Audiologic Update Form could be anywhere from 24 – 40 percent. A representative from Hands & Voices KY explained that the organization has planned to implement the “Guide By Your Side” program and that it should help to decrease the number of infants lost to follow up.

Mental Health

On July 16, the Information Program Coordinator attended a core team meeting in Louisville as Chair to prepare for a Mental Health Advisory Board meeting scheduled for August 18. The advisory board addressed two central topics; firstly, videoconferencing for regional state hospitals; and secondly the plan for the board through May 2011. The advisory board plans to address the four mandates required to prepare for the biennial report due by June 2011.

In preparing for the biennial report, the board will pursue fostering collaboration and accountability between state and private agencies; extending additional outreach to and educating the deaf and hard of hearing community; ensuring quality direct services related to behavioral health, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disabilities; working toward a clear reporting mechanism and means of communicating with the department; furthering the goals between meetings; and equipping board members to understand which recommendations optimally improve services.

The Executive Director and Information Program Coordinator met with information technology representatives from the Division of Behavioral Health during a web steering committee meeting on July 22. KCDHH answered questions for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) about which programs are available and best for captioning web videos to make the website easier to navigate for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was also discussed as it can be used to justify the need for all websites to be accessible. Upon receiving information from the Division's IT representatives, KCDHH provided a recommendation letter encouraging the Department for Behavioral Health to make their websites more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Justification was also provided regarding programs needed to caption videos used on the website. Once the captioning programs are available to CHFS staff, the Network Analyst II will assist in training the Department for Behavioral Health's web team regarding the best use the program to imbed captions for the videos.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Services Network

On July 28, the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the quarterly Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network Advisory Council meeting held in Lexington at the Bluegrass Technology Center. Board members were given a tour of the facility and a short presentation by some of the consumers they assist in finding jobs. The center received the Employer of the Year award from the OVR this year for its extraordinary work. Quarterly updates were provided by all the regional assistive technology centers: KATS, Kentucky Disability Coalition (KDC), Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation, ADA Coordinators Office and KCDHH. KCDHH advised members of its deployment of wireless devices and encouraged them to spread the word to consumers they work with. At the request of KDC, KCDHH agreed to assist in producing a captioned video explanation of the accessible voting equipment. Redwood, located in northern Kentucky, is developing a centralized database to log all assistive technology available for loan or purchase so consumers can better access needed equipment. Ed Schickel, Co-Chair, announced that the DVD "Hearing Loss 101" is now available for distribution to parents of children with a hearing loss, or any organization working with someone with a hearing loss. It is available on-line from HLAA. The western Kentucky assistive technology center, located on the Wendell Ford campus in Owensboro,

received a grant to research how disabled students benefit from the use of technology such as the iPad which has amazing applications that can be downloaded free. Such technology bridges the gap for many students. The results of the research will be published and distributed in 2011.

Kentucky Hospital Association

On August 19, the Interpreter I attended the Kentucky Hospital Association Effective Communications Committee that took place at the American Printing House (APH) for the blind in Louisville. With the focus of the committee shifted to improving intake services for blind and visually impaired patients, the APH gave the committee a tour of the printing and distributions factories, the history of Braille and how the APH produces Braille, and the future of technologies for blind and visually impaired individuals. KCDHH remained on this committee in an advisory capacity on matters that affect deaf-blind patients.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

September 21, the Internal Policy Analyst III attended the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) Advisory Board meeting to discuss quarterly activities. KATLC's low rate loans allow hard of hearing consumers to obtain hearing aids and allow other disabled consumers to purchase assistive technology and home modifications that would otherwise be unaffordable. The board received and processed more loans during this quarter than anytime since its conception. Members affirmed votes and reviewed marketing activities conducted during the quarter.



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.

Outreach Partnerships

KCDHH continued to collaborate with Hamilton Relay, Kentucky's Relay Service provider, to further outreach opportunities such as the Kentucky State Fair and DeaFestival. Hamilton has been and continues to be an avid supporter of KCDHH activities. The Executive Director, Information Office Supervisor and Internal Policy Analyst III met with various Hamilton personnel to develop a PR plan to promote outreach activities. Hamilton is in the process of hiring a new outreach coordinator for Kentucky who will work closely with KCDHH to optimize opportunities and reach the remote, rural areas of the state.

On July 14, the Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III attended a meeting with AT&T regarding sponsorship for DeaFestival and future outreach efforts to

promote the Telecommunications Access Program deployment of wireless devices. And on August 9, the Executive Director and Internal Policy Analyst III met with Dixie Ziegler and other representatives from Hamilton Relay regarding sponsorship of DeaFestival, participation in the State Fair and other outreach opportunities that KCDHH can do in partnership with Hamilton.

Hands & Voices Partnerships

On July 8, the Information Office Supervisor attended the Hands & Voices national conference with the national founders. This was the first time that Kentucky established a team presence at the national event. KCDHH attended conference sessions based on their ability to assist Kentucky's chapter in implementing the "Guide By Your Side" program. Regional groups had the focus of the plenary session as all state chapters met with other chapters within their own regions. The Kentucky chapter group met after hours to discuss options and directions for the state chapter.

The Information Office Supervisor met with the Statewide Family Support Center (SFSC) at the Kentucky School for the Deaf along with the statewide coordinator of mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing on September 29. The purpose of this meeting was to determine how Hands & Voices KY could collaborate with SFSC for the annual Family Learning Vacation (FLV). Hands & Voices KY received funds it intended to use for a mini-conference but saw greater potential to collaborate with FLV for a bigger impact. Future meetings were scheduled to explore those details.

Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness

Throughout this quarter, KCDHH staff members attended meetings as members of the 2010 Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) planning committees. Committee members gave progress reports on their accomplishments and work yet to be accomplished as KY hosts the regional conference in October. The Executive Director served as conference co-Chair while other staff members served on the door prize committee, who worked diligently to gather donations and put together all prize baskets; the technology committee, who made sure all technological needs were met; the entertainment committee, who contracted with performers and visual artists and the professional development committee, who submitted paperwork to various certifying bodies requesting continuing education units for SERID workshops. KCDHH also scheduled CART providers for the conference and staff interpreters agreed to satisfy some of the conference interpreting needs.

Domestic Violence Survivors

On September 24, the Information Office Supervisor met with a staff attorney for the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, the project manager of the Mary Byron Project and several other stakeholders to finalize plans for an interpreter training

to be held from November 30–December 1. The training is titled "Interpreting Effectively and Safely for Deaf Survivors of Violence" and is in conjunction with the 12th Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference scheduled to be held in Lexington.



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

Americans with Disability Act

On July 26, America celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) signed by President George H. Bush. The ADA ensures the civil rights of and reduces barriers for individuals with disabilities. KCDHH signed a Proclamation of Recommitment to the full implementation of the ADA in support of the people the legislation protects. Both Information Program Coordinators attended the ADA 20th Anniversary Rally held at the Capitol in Frankfort where special guest Attorney General Jack Conway gave a presentation recognizing and celebrating the ADA.

KECC

The Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign (KECC) kicked off again this year with a collective event for all state coordinators on July 15. Prior to that, the Information Program Coordinator attended a meeting of statewide KECC coordinators to prepare fundraising goals and events. Blue jean days, sales of homemade salsa and bake sales are some of the events conducted to bring KCDHH within reach of meeting its goal.

Commissioner Orientation

Commissioner Amy Hatzel and Commissioner Marilyn Fenwick representing the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the HLAA, respectively, attended an orientation on September 22. Commissioner Hatzel and Commissioner Fenwick received a tour of the KCDHH office and met with staff from each department to learn about daily office functions and responsibilities. After introduction to the Executive Board, the new Commissioners met with the Chair and Executive Director to discuss the Commission mandates, goals, initiatives, operating policies and bylaws.

Staff Meeting

The Executive Director called a staff meeting on September 30 to debrief on DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 and ensure staff maintained office operations smoothly. KCDHH received much positive feedback from both the hearing and the deaf and hard of hearing communities on the success of DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010. Many

festivalgoers and the local community asked KCDHH if DeaFestival planned to return to Horse Cave in 2012. With the excitement and exhaustion of DeaFestival done, it is back to business as usual within KCDHH. Each department reported on its priorities to ensure the needs of the public are being met and mandates of the agency are maintained.

Birthdays

During the last quarter, KCDHH staff celebrated the birthdays of the Interpreter I, Information Office Supervisor and Interpreter Referral Specialist.