
**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, November 14, 2018 from 12:30-3:30 pm at the Kentucky Correctional Industries located in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Nancy Perry, Committee Chairperson, welcomed members and visitors. Roll Call was taken which confirmed a quorum. Committee members approved the minutes for the August, 2018 meeting.

Michelle Niehaus, Program Administrator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for Kentucky's Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities, recognized the 2018 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Champions: Rhonda Bodner and Jennifer Fasel:

Ms. Bodner has served on the Advisory Committee by representing the Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association for several years. Ms. Jennifer Fasel works for Beacon Health Options and has been instrumental in facilitating out-of-state mental health treatment options for deaf and hard of hearing consumers in the state of Kentucky. Both ladies were recipients of a framed certificate of recognition and appreciation.

Ms. Debbie Weiss, from Wellspring, provided training for the Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Weiss works with adults with severe mental illnesses. Wellspring promotes mental health recovery for adults with severe and persistent mental illness by providing quality housing and psychiatric rehabilitative services for nearly 600 clients annually. As a private, non-profit agency, Wellspring operates Crisis Stabilization services, Transitional Housing programs, Supported Housing programs and deeply subsidized rental housing throughout Jefferson County and a Shelby County site. Ms. Weiss and Mrs. Niehaus plan to collaborate in the future to work towards meeting the needs of deaf and hard of hearing consumers with severe mental illness. Additional information about Wellspring can be found here: <http://www.wellspringky.org/>

Planning and Implementation Reports from Cumberland River Behavioral Health, Centerstone Kentucky, and Bluegrass Mental Health Services were distributed to Advisory Committee members for review. In addition, Ms. Niehaus shared her Program Administrator's report with Committee members.

Ms. Niehaus reminded members of the Advisory Committee that KRS 210.031 mandates that a biennial report be submitted to the Commissioner, Secretary, and Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare each odd numbered year. Therefore, a report will be compiled in 2019. The biennial report must:

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

The purpose of this report provides a focus for the legislature and members of the Advisory Committee on addressing the service gaps for Kentuckians with hearing loss who enter the behavioral health, developmental or intellectual disability, or substance abuse service system. The 2017 Biennial Report can be read here: <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/documents/dhhs/BiennialReport.pdf>

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mrs. Niehaus, provided Departmental Updates, reviewed old business, and made announcements about upcoming events and trainings.

Announcements:

- The Advisory Committee meeting dates for 2019 were approved as follows: February 20; May 15; August 21; and November 20.

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