



KANSAS COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

2019 Annual Report



KANSAS COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO:
THE HONORABLE LAURA KELLY
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

December 2019

As per K.S.A. 75-5391(9), the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) shall provide an annual report to the Governor to review the status of all state services to the deaf and hard of hearing and to recommend priorities to the Governor for development and coordination of services to the deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH). This report includes a review on the status of all state services to D/HH within Kansas and recommendations on priorities, action plan, and/or areas of future needs. This page sets out the highlights and the following pages provide a detailed report.

1. STATUS OF ALL STATE SERVICES TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

- A. KCDHH has only two staff members, Executive Director and Administrative Specialist (who also functions as the Statewide interpreter coordinator).
- B. KCDHH has been involved in a number of interagency activities with state agencies, local government agencies, law enforcement, and courts throughout Kansas.
- C. KCDHH staff receive between 500 and 800 contacts every month (mostly phone calls or email messages) involving many issues on services or needing specific resources for D/HH.
- D. KCDHH maintains a registration list of 403 sign language interpreters in Kansas, who provide interpreting services for D/HH and hopes to expand other communication access services, including captioning (CART) and support providers for deafblind (SSP).
- E. KCDHH provides an annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at the Capitol event every March attracting 250 to 300 visitors, including state legislators.
- F. KCDHH is continuing to monitor implementation of the Language Assessment Program for the D/HH.
- G. KCDHH follows and provides a brief overview of various state programs and services benefitting D/HH, with their status being discussed on pages 5 through 10.

2. PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS for 2020

- A. SB 230 was introduced in March 2019 which will be considered in the 2020 legislature. SB 230 clarifies the role of KCDHH to provide better communication access services including sign language interpreters.
- B. To address crucial service gaps, particularly in areas of mental health and elderly.
- C. To improve on the interagency activities and initiatives to provide better access and services to D/HH.
- D. To enhance support in crucial functions of certain state and/or local political subdivisions in their efforts to improve accessibility in emergency preparedness and management, law enforcement relations with D/HH communities, and transition services for successful post-secondary outcomes.
- E. To provide a better KCDHH website and social media (Facebook, etc.) presence, as another source for state agencies, local governments, local law enforcement, courts, and those D/HH wanting information about D/HH without having the need to call KCDHH staff to obtain such information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As an advocacy and coordinating agency, the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), established in 1982, works to advocate and facilitate equal and equitable access to comprehensive services that enhance the quality of life for all Kansans who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH). KCDHH serves as an advisory board to the Governor on the needs of D/HH Kansans by preparing an annual report.

Since KCDHH's last annual report in 2014, KCDHH has undergone leadership changes, including a new Executive Director and several Commission Chairpersons, which has led to a critical examination of how well KCDHH was meeting its obligations as dictated in the state statutes and what was needed to improve the Commission's ability to meet those obligations. This involved a series of communications with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to clarify roles (which is still ongoing) as well as intensive policy development.

Therefore, the intent of this report and its format is to provide information on KCDHH activities and status of state services during the past several years through the end of Fiscal Year 2019, and to recommend targeted priorities and strategies for the current and next one or two fiscal years.

SUMMARY OF KCDHH ACTIVITIES

The most notable activity KCDHH has been engaged in to date, is the 2016 passage of legislation, now K.S.A. 75-5397e, for the Language Assessment Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing and its eventual implementation. The Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSD) has been designated as the lead agency administering the program and reporting back to KCDHH on its progress. The implementation process itself involved extensive interagency effort across several key State agencies and their specific programs including KDHE (Health & Environment), KSDE (Education), KSD and many local partners.

KCDHH has utilized interagency efforts to provide collaboration and coordination between state agencies and political subdivisions, including law enforcement and court systems. KCDHH intends to expand these efforts and also build on areas where critical services are needed, such as Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services and from within DCF where KCDHH is currently housed. The following is a summary of KCDHH interagency activities:

Current Interagency Activities

- a. Formal Advisory Designations
 - i. 911 Coordinating Council; Text-to-911 and Real Time Texting
 - ii. Correct Count Committee – 2020 Census
 - iii. KDHE – Early Hearing Detection and Identification/Sound Beginnings; Hearing Aid Bank
 - iv. KSD – School Advisory; Language Assessment Program; Sound Start Program; Outreach/Family Services/Deaf Mentoring Program
 - v. University of Kansas – Edwards Campus – ASL & Deaf Studies Program
 - vi. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) – Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) & Kansas Relay Services
 - vii. Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) – Emergency Preparedness and Response committees/subcommittees, including Cargill Steering Committee and Community Disaster Resilience Network

Current Interagency Activities (Continued)

- b. Current Program/Policy Development Activities
 - i. State Team on Engage for Change (EFC) addressing D/HH Transition for Successful Post-Secondary Outcomes; and State Board of Education’s Statewide Transition Workgroups
 - ii. Kansas Division of Emergency Management; Triage Development for Interpreter Services/Emergency Communication Access
 - iii. Kansas Department of Revenue/Division of Motor Vehicles – Stakeholders Advisory
 - iv. Kansas Traffic Safety Resources Office (KDOT and DCCCA) – Diversity Committee
 - v. Kansas Department of Administration – Statewide Interpreter Contracts and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) System Development
 - vi. Kansas Association of the Deaf (KAD)/Kansas Community Action Plan MH/AOD Taskforce
 - vii. Johnson County Mental Health Services
 - viii. KanCare Ombudsman Accessibility Guideline & Volunteer Development (ASL Video)
 - ix. Collaborations with Law Enforcement Agencies; soon to include Kansas Highway Patrol
 - x. Hearing Aid Assistance (Distribution Program and/or Mandate Coverage)

In addition to these interagency collaborations, KCDHH has handled a high volume of direct contacts when providing information and referral, service coordination and advocacy support due to the ever-growing service needs for D/HH individuals and communication barriers among state agencies, political subdivisions, and other services provided by private entities (especially those outsourced by the State).

KCDHH has received on average a minimum of 500 contacts monthly, peaking at 800 contacts, not reflecting months when Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) issues surfaced. The majority of contacts are by phone or by videophone. Approximately 50 to 100 contacts involve interpreter requests or coordination assistance. During the months of January and August, such requests would increase due to students enrolling at community colleges and universities, not to mention the needs of local public schools during September, school events in December and graduation or award ceremonies in May. Other interpreter requests, in order from high to low, come from doctor offices, VR or DCF offices, Courts, DMV offices and private family/reunions/funerals. Other contacts involve email correspondences from individuals, family members, friends, colleagues, employers, detox facilities, law offices, and schools referring to other communication needs or resources for parents. Common inquiries among family members involve ASL classes, resources for parents of D/HH children or for elderly family members who experience hearing loss due to age. Individual inquiries would involve advocacy issues with medical facilities (often relate to VRI or limited access for family members), Courts or law enforcement, workplace barriers, and attorneys refusing services. Other issues may involve SSA, VR, food stamps, housing, family/other legal issues, and MH/AOD needs.

KCDHH has provided numerous presentations and training opportunities for state agencies and local political subdivisions as well as colleges targeting future professionals who may engage with D/HH. Whenever feasible, KCDHH frequently visits local schools, youth programs and in particular students at Kansas School for the Deaf to provide inspiration and role model exposure. KCDHH has also attended many D/HH community town hall meetings or events throughout the state, on average five to eight occasions each year.

Since 2015, KCDHH has hosted the annual event, D/HH Day at the Capitol, at the Statehouse during the month of March, attracting on average 250 to 300 visitors, mostly D/HH and their family members. With 12 to 15 exhibition booths available, individuals are able to learn more about D/HH related services, state resources, as well as promote awareness to others such as state legislators and officials who happen to walk by.

KCDHH also hosted or was involved in a number of statewide conferences/training in 2018, which included: Touch Signal training for DeafBlind individuals and their families (over 80 participated); a statewide awareness training for public employees (100 attended); Effect for Change (EFC) stakeholders meeting addressing transitions and post-secondary outcomes for D/HH students (70 participated); and Hard of Hearing Summit (150 attended), which targeted late-deafened adults, their family members and friends, and professionals seeking to maximize their services and accessibility to D/HH.

To date, KCDHH has created printed materials, related to the following items:

1. Interpreter Registration Policy, April 2015 and updated January 2017
2. Provisional Interpreter Supervision Plan, July 2015
3. Quick Guide on Accommodating Deaf and Hard of Hearing for Public Employees, April 2017
4. Initial Policy Guidance on Use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Services, October 2017
5. VRI Matrix for Medical Settings, October 2017

STATUS OF STATE SERVICES – K.S.A. 75-5391(a)(9)

KCDHH serves on various advisory committees for many state programs and service providers throughout Kansas, including several local components. KCDHH also provides free technical assistance to agencies on development and/or enhancement of services. While ensuring communication equity is always paramount in these consultations, KCDHH also addresses the functional needs of D/HH, ensuring each person would benefit as equally as any other citizen of Kansas. The status of services is divided into the following nine service categories with three columns specifying level of status for each specific service program component, which ranges from solid/sustainable to critical:

1. Early Intervention
2. Education
3. Health
4. Behavioral Health
5. Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Employment
6. Communication Access
7. Telecommunication Access
8. Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response
9. Justice Access and Law Enforcement

NOTE: This status report does not address areas where there is limited data available pertaining to services provided to D/HH, such as in areas of Aging, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), KanCare, Division of Motor Vehicles, and State Hospitals. Also, this report does not include information on other areas usually not provided or coordinated directly by the State such as Health-related services and various political subdivisions, including the Courts and local schools.

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1. Early Intervention

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. Early Hearing Detection and Identification (EHDI), provided by KDHE’s SoundBeginnings program in 2018 screened 98% of 38,053 infants born in Kansas and at least 424 of 560 infants requiring follow up were completed (75.7%) and 61 were referred to Early Intervention, which at least 80.3% were enrolled (49 infants). These numbers far exceed Federal standards.</p> <p>b. SoundBeginnings also administers a Hearing Aid Bank Program, serving at least 70 children in FY2019.</p>	<p>a. Language Assessment Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provided by KSD (with interagency support from KDHE and KSDE); implemented during FY2019, with a goal of at least 125 children to be assessed by the end of FY2020 and 650 children by the end of FY2023.</p> <p>b. SoundBeginnings also referred at least 60 families to two other program components, Parent to Parent Support and KSD’s SoundStart Program (0-3).</p>	

2. Education

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. Estimated 1500 students are D/HH, of which 750 have Individualized Education Plans and are served by their local schools or otherwise enrolled at KSD. Of those students, 147 were enrolled at KSD during the 2018-19 school year. KSD Outreach also provided services to at least 450 students combined statewide.</p>	<p>a. KSD has implemented the Blended Learning Program, a virtual component to provide support to local schools through videoconferencing means.</p> <p>b. State Board of Education has directed KSD to start providing statewide transition support for D/HH students.</p> <p>c. Kansas State School for Blind (KSSB) was recently awarded a grant to administer Deaf-Blind Project to support local schools in providing specialized electronic equipment for deaf-blind students; 93 requests have been approved to date.</p>	<p>a. Only 60 teachers are designated as a TOD (teacher for deaf/hard of hearing), of which almost half are currently employed at KSD. Since there is a significant need for more TOD teachers, KSD provides technical assistance in building capacity to help school districts to recruit or train teachers to get TOD credentials.</p> <p>b. Approximately 60 sign language interpreters are employed by local public schools. Many have not passed an acceptable standard of interpreting skills needed.</p>

3. Health

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
	<p>a. KCDHH has adopted an initial policy guidance on use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services in medical settings and has proposed legislation (SB230 introduced in 2019) to expand its registration requirement and regulation of interpreting services including VRI.</p>	<p>a. Most health resources are not accessible to the D/HH community, especially those providing group support services.</p> <p>b. Excessive inappropriate uses of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services have been widely reported, and the qualifications of interpreters used are often unknown or unverifiable.</p> <p>c. Additionally, many medical facilities are unable to provide contingency accommodation(s) whenever the VRI system is down or unavailable, in which some facilities may refuse to consider other available resources due to an exclusivity clause in contracts with primary service provider(s).</p> <p>d. In 2010, at least 80% of all interpreters on KCDHH registry reported working in medical settings, and it is now estimated less than 10% are working in medical settings. Less than 20 of 400 interpreters on KCDHH registry are employed by VRI.</p>

4. Behavioral Health

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
	<p>a. Alcoholic Anonymous group for D/HH in Olathe recently formed in late 2018 and is the only known such group. Two other groups identified with limited interpreting during sessions. Most in-patient or after care group sessions are not accessible, but a few provide accommodations, due to efforts led by the KAD.</p>	<p>a. Johnson County Mental Health is the only facility in Kansas known to employ qualified personnel serving D/HH individuals. They recently lost 2 of 3 such personnel but are currently working on filling these vacancies, which created temporary crisis of inaccessible Mental Health services.</p>

Behavioral Health (continued from Page 6)

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
		<p>b. There are only two other qualified personnel in private practice serving D/HH individuals, both located in the KC area.</p> <p>c. Most interpreters on the KCDHH registry reported limited engagements in the field of Behavioral Health, whereby many reported lacking communication accessibility in most facilities.</p>

5. Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Employment

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
	<p>a. KCDHH leads a State Team on Transition for D/HH. The team includes interagency designees, in conjunction with the nationwide Engage for Change (EFC) project led by National Deaf Center to promote system collaborations and capacity building.</p> <p>b. Limited number of vendors providing employment services are accessible; only one with specialized expertise in serving D/HH.</p> <p>c. KCDHH has continued to push for Kansas Rehabilitation Services to hire a specialized VR Counselor(s) known as RCD or at least hire those fluent in ASL.</p>	<p>a. Federal data indicated Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS a.k.a. VR services) served annually about 200 clients who are D/HH from 2010 through 2016. Most recent State data shows about 520 served by KRS, including those through Pre-Employment & Transition Services (PreETS). The number is still low compared to other neighboring states, despite Kansas showing better outcomes.</p> <p>b. Significant number of D/HH are unemployed or underemployed, when compared to all people with disabilities.</p> <p>c. Most job fairs are not accessible; and many fair organizers refuse to provide accommodations.</p>

6. Communication Access

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. Number of interpreters registered with KCDHH has continued to grow and has surpassed the 400 mark as of July 2019.</p>	<p>a. KCDHH is working on developing Specialized Interpreting Endorsements, currently focusing on Legal and Medical.</p> <p>b. KU Edwards has established a new degree program of ASL and Deaf Studies, starting Fall 2019. Program subcomponents include interpreter training. As a result of this transition, the ASL & English Interpretation Program at Johnson County Community College was discontinued as of May 2019.</p>	<p>a. Certain facilities in Kansas have adopted Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services and may incorrectly assume such access to be equivalent and effective as in-person interpreters. VRI may enhance accessibility if used properly, with a triage in place to accommodate individuals with special needs when VRI is useless.</p> <p>b. Other communication access services and options, i.e. CART (captioning), SSP (navigator for deafblind), and CDI (certified deaf interpreter) remain very limited. A plan to invest and support the development of these services is needed.</p>

7. Telecommunication Access

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. Kansas Relay Service continues to be funded by Kansas Universal Service Fund. A new contract was recently awarded to Sprint Relay, which replaced Hamilton Relay.</p> <p>b. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) continues to administer the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP), distributing accessible phone equipment for D/HH; and iKANConnect, a parallel program for deafblind. TAP provided at least 567 accessible devices in FY2019 of which at least 106 were mobile devices, including tablets.</p>	<p>a. Broadband connectivity continues to expand in hard-to-reach rural areas. Many accessibility features require dedicated internet connections.</p>	<p>a. FCC has rescinded its net neutrality policy which may have created unintended ramifications for many D/HH individuals who depend on internet connection for their telecommunication needs. Most internet service providers and/or mobile carriers haven't considered this potential implication. One carrier is offering absolute unlimited data-only plan with no data cap for any qualified D/HH customer who has purchased or leased their products. Some are able to benefit in conjunction with the TAP program, but not with full statewide coverage.</p>

8. Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. NG911 is implemented with Text-to-911 feature available in at least 99 counties, which includes the ability to send text alerts. Real-Time Texting (RTT) plan is being implemented ahead of the scheduled timeline.</p> <p>b. Office of State Fire Marshal administers Get Alarmed Kansas, which also provides special strobe smoke alarms and/or bedside shaker devices for D/HH; 435 requests to date.</p>	<p>a. Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has been very inclusive of all considerations to ensure accessibility is provided for all D/HH within the Greater KC Metro area, along with several local CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams) setting up awareness training sessions for its community volunteers.</p>	<p>a. Kansas Division of Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) does not have the means of acquiring and/or deploying interpreters or other communication access providers during the event of an emergency or disaster, including public TV announcements, which were inaccessible during recent tornado and flooding events.</p> <p>b. KDEM and KCDHH have just begun discussions to create a formal state-level protocol to address this area of need.</p>

9. Justice Access and Law Enforcement

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
<p>a. KCDHH continues to monitor its visor placard program for D/HH drivers identifying their disability and different communication needs. There is limited community response while most local law enforcement agencies and Kansas Highway Patrol are not aware nor well versed with the program which has been in place since early 1980s.</p>	<p>a. Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) along with several counties have installed special videophone equipment in some facilities to provide telecommunication access for D/HH inmates.</p> <p>b. At least five local law enforcement agencies have engaged in community meetings with the D/HH community, set up training and reviewed/improved their policies. With KCDHH's involvement, one agency has established a contract for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) services along with a listing of interpreters to be called if requiring in-person interpretation onsite.</p>	<p>a. Some District and Municipal Courts have failed to provide necessary communication accommodations during court proceedings, and some have refused due to lack of funding or suggested that State or Federal laws mandating them were left to the Court's discretion, using unqualified interpreters instead of interpreters registered with KCDHH as required by State law.</p> <p>b. Many court-related services, including pre-trial, diversion, court-ordered services or treatments are not accessible, and some Courts expect D/HH to be responsible for accessibility while participating or receiving services mandated by the Courts, despite having provided accommodations during the court proceedings, if any.</p>

Justice Access and Law Enforcement (continued from Page 9)

Solid or sustainable	In process or development	Critical concern
		c. Many D/HH reported that most private attorneys are not willing to provide communication accommodations or to accept representation in most legal matters.

OBSERVATIONS

KCDHH has recognized several crucial service gaps, particularly in areas of Mental Health and Elderly services. The main challenge has been the ability for the State to obtain or track data on how wide these gaps are, especially subgroups within the D/HH population such as deafblind, deafdisabilities, hard of hearing, late-deafened adults, cochlear-implant users to name a few whom KCDHH has a strong indication of being underserved if not otherwise completely neglected. After all, 90% of the D/HH population does not sign ASL or use sign language to communicate. This “diverse experience” of D/HH needs to be addressed at all levels.

The biggest drawback to KCDHH’s ability to obtain data and to provide necessary resources for the State has been the limited number of KCDHH staff, which doesn’t match the KCDHH’s statutory mandate nor the capacity required to carry out the purposes of the Commission. KCDHH intends to improve its website and social media (Facebook, etc.) presence, as another source for state agencies, local governments, local law enforcement, courts, and those D/HH wanting information about D/HH without having the need to call KCDHH staff to obtain such information. As KCDHH is able to add staff, the emphasis would be on increased community engagements and other outreach efforts, including training and improved resource awareness.

KCDHH also believes that there is a greater opportunity for the State to consider what may be more efficient or most effective means of meeting diverse individual needs. Rather than being too concerned about providing accommodations, there are several means of achieving more positive results. Direct communication relies more on professionals with specialized training and sensitivity to communicate effectively with D/HH without third-party support. Hiring D/HH personnel to communicate directly with D/HH consumers as well as the general public. Utilizing the principles of universal design in physical spaces and services rendered are all examples of additional options for achieving communication equity and system capacity, making facilities and services more “readily accessible” at all times, rather than responding to individual requests.

AREAS OF FUTURE NEEDS

KCDHH has identified priorities that need to be addressed, which are compartmentalized into four initiative considerations. Throughout all these initiatives, KCDHH has recognized the ultimate goal is communication equity rather than simply addressing communication accessibility for D/HH based on several possible strategies identified for achievable outcomes and/or solutions to be considered. KCDHH proposes that the State address these initiatives and following strategies in the current and next few fiscal years. There may be a need for legislative action and/or additional funding support to strengthen KCDHH’s ability to achieve its mission and satisfactorily address those proposed initiatives. Details pertaining to specific strategies shall become available when it is appropriate and feasible or is otherwise further encouraged by either the Governor and/or any participating agencies.

Initiative Consideration	Possible Strategies
<p>1. Promoting Communication Equity</p>	<p>Create a <u>Centralized Communication Access Fund</u> Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts and Court-Ordered Services – model from Colorado • Access Incentives for Private Attorneys • Increased Civic Participation Initiatives • Accessibility at Job Fairs and other difficult venues <p>Address <u>Disparate Impact</u> in State policies & HR practices through interagency collaborations</p> <p>Support development of <u>State Disability Preference Hiring</u></p> <p>Support <u>Universal Access</u> efforts with captioning, including online streaming recordings & open captioning for emergencies</p>
<p>2. Addressing Services Gaps</p>	<p>Promote emphasis on <u>Direct Communication</u> in service programs as more efficient and effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KU Edwards – ASL/Deaf Studies Program • Professional Proficiency Assessment & Registry • Supplemental Endorsement for Other Licensed Professionals • Initiatives for Virtual Services through video • Employment Services <p>Push priority on <u>Mental Health Services & Elderly Services</u></p>
<p>3. Expand Communication Access Services</p>	<p>Request legislative passage of <u>SB230 – Clarification of KCDHH Authority</u>, enabling KCDHH to meet its mission and streamline oversight of communication access services</p> <p>Create a system of <u>Endorsements</u> for specialized interpreters</p> <p>Initiatives for <u>Communication Access Services</u></p> <p>Create standards of a <u>Statewide Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)</u> system</p>
<p>4. Other Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>Support and expand <u>Transition Services</u> for successful post-secondary outcomes</p> <p>Provide support for <u>Emergency Preparedness and Management</u>, including triage for interpreter service/communication access to ensure full accessibility for D/HH Kansans</p> <p>Continue collaborations with <u>Law Enforcement Agencies</u></p>

CURRENT COMMISSION MEMBERS ROSTER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-5392, the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall consist of 17 members who shall be responsible for the policies and management of the Commission, of which 12 members are appointed by the Governor and 5 ex-officio members. The following is the current member roster of the Commission:

1. Kami Albers-Poell, Manhattan, representing otolaryngologist, 2 terms, January 2014 through April 2019
 2. Lucy Crabtree, Mission, representing deaf or hard of hearing, 2 terms, July 2015 through April 2021
 3. Christine Dally (Chair), Olathe, representing KAD, 2 terms, April 2014 through April 2020
 4. Suzanne Dennis, Olathe, representing social worker, 2 terms, January 2014 through April 2018; extending
 5. Dan Donaldson, Topeka, representing deaf or hard of hearing, August 2017 through April 2020
 6. Leonard Hall, Olathe, representing deaf or hard of hearing, September 2017 through April 2020
 7. Kim Hendricks, Garden City, representing audiologist, 2 term, April 2015 through April 2021
 8. Carolyn Plavcan, Wichita, representing deaf or hard of hearing, April 2016 through April 2019
 9. Tina Stuchlik, Wichita, representing speech language pathologist, January 2019 through April 2021
 10. Stacey Storme, Olathe, representing state registry of interpreters, January 2019 through April 2019
 11. Teri Sturgeon (Vice Chair), Olathe, representing hearing parent, 2 terms, April 2013 through April 2019
 12. One vacancy, representing deaf or hard of hearing, for an unexpired term through April 2020
 13. Luanne Barron, KSD Superintendent and ex-officio member, since 2017
 14. Joan Houghton, ex-officio member representing KSDE, since 2012
 15. Kelly Milner, ex-officio member representing Kansas Rehabilitation Services, since 2015
 16. Michael Donnelly, ex-officio member representing DCF, since 2011
 17. Elizabeth Schardine, ex-officio member representing KDHE, since 2009
- Staff – Robert Cooper, Executive Director; and Megan Essary, Administrative Specialist

APPRECIATION OF SERVICE

The Commission wishes to recognize and thank the following members who have served terms on the Commission since the last annual report and through the end of Fiscal Year 2018:

Margarette Atwood, Topeka; Debra Burnett, Manhattan; James Chance, Topeka; Jack L. Cooper, Gardner; Pam Fish, Olathe; Robert Freeman, Topeka; Amy Fowler, Lawrence; Eileen Honors, Lenexa; Jerry Leonard, Overland Park; Cady Macfee, Topeka; Loren Medley, Topeka; Conni Rodriguez, Topeka; Dennis Selznick, Overland Park; and Amanda Wittman, Olathe.

About KCDHH – *The Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) is a state agency administratively housed within the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). Based in Topeka, KCDHH works with agencies and organizations throughout Kansas to assure availability and coordination of services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, including communication access. KCDHH also maintains a registry of qualified sign language interpreters in order to track interpreters' credentials, areas of expertise and geographic areas of practice of interpreters working in the State of Kansas. As required by K.S.A. 74-4355b (a), "All interpreters for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired shall be certified or registered with the KCDHH or an agency designated by the Commission." This is applicable to all interpreters hired or contracted by state agencies or any political subdivisions of Kansas, including the Courts.*