

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for
Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing
Created by Section 71-4-2102, *Tennessee Code Annotated*
(Sunset Termination June 2020)

Enabling Statute, Purpose, and Rules and Regulations

1. Provide a brief introduction to the council, including information about its purpose, statutory duties, staff, and administrative attachment.

This Council is established pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 71-4-2102. Members of this council are appointed by the Governor, and the council consists of 18 members including: Commissioners of Education, Human Services, Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Safety or their designees; Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services or the Assistant Commissioner's Designee; Tennessee Regulatory Authority; Tennessee Emergency Management Agency; president of the Tennessee Association of the Deaf; two (2) deaf consumer representatives appointed by the Governor; president of a Hearing Loss Association of America Chapter; two (2) hard of hearing consumer representatives appointed by the Governor; president of the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; president of the Tennessee Hands & Voices; one (1) deaf-blind representative who may be appointed by the Governor from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested deaf-blind groups such as the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind and the TN Deaf-Blind Association; and one (1) minority representative who may be appointed by the Governor from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested minority deaf advocate groups, such as chapters of the Tennessee Black Deaf Advocates.

The Council exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment.

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing has the statutory responsibility to:

1. Advocate for services affecting people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in the areas of public service, healthcare, education, vocational training, employment, emergency services, resource sharing, and communication;
2. Act as a bureau of information for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing to state agencies and public institutions providing healthcare, employment, vocational services, educational services, resource sharing, and emergency services to the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing, and to local agencies and programs;
3. Collect facts, statistics, and other special studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in Tennessee;
4. Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the national, state, and local levels;

5. Encourage and assist local governments and agencies in the development of programs for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;

6. Cooperate with public and private agencies and units of local, state, and federal governments in promoting coordination in programs for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;

7. Authorize the Executive Director to submit an annual report and needs assessment to the Council that reviews the status of state services for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. The Council shall submit the approved report and the needs assessment to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives and make this report available to organizations serving the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing; and

8. Make recommendations for needed improvements and to serve as an advisory body regarding new legislation affecting the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Council.

2. Has the council promulgated rules and regulations? If yes, please cite the reference.

No, the council has not promulgated rules and regulations.

Council Organization

3. Provide a list of current members of the council. For each member, please indicate who appointed the member, statutory member representation, the beginning and end of the member's term, and whether the member is serving a consecutive term.

Name	# of terms served	Current term dates (beginning & end)	Seat requirements mandated by code	Disability Represented	Geographic Division
Dr. Vicki Kirk	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Commissioner of the Department of Education, or Designee	Deaf	East Tennessee Knox Co. Urban
Tiffany Kelley	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, or Designee	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co. Urban
Rebecca J. Walls	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Commissioner of the Department of Health or Designee	Hard of Hearing	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co Urban.
Alex King	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or Designee	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban

Name	# of terms served	Current term dates (beginning & end)	Seat requirements mandated by code	Disability Represented	Geographic Division
Robin Beamon	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Commissioner, Dept. of Safety & Homeland Security or Designee	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban
Mandy Johnson	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Assistant Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation, or Designee	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban
Monique Brazelton	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Representative of the TN Public Utility Commission (formerly TRA)	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban
April Haggard	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	President of the Tennessee Association of the Deaf (TAD)	Deaf	East Tennessee Sevier Co., Rural
James Smith	1 st full term	07/01/17-6/30/2020	Deaf Consumer Representative	Deaf	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban
Eric Fleet	2 nd full term	02/18/2017-06/30/2020	Deaf Consumer Representative	Deaf	Middle Tennessee Williamson Co., Rural
Naomi Pritkin	Statutory appointment	07/01/13-n/a	Hearing Loss Association of America-Tennessee Chapter Representative (Appointed by HLAA Pres.)	Hard of Hearing	Middle Tennessee Bedford Co., Rural

Name	# of terms served	Current term dates (beginning & end)	Seat requirements mandated by code	Disability Represented	Geographic Division
Megan Potts	Statutory appointment	07/01/19-n/a	President of the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (TRID)	N/A	East Tennessee Knox Co., Urban
Kodi Ogle	Statutory Appointment	07/01/13—n/a	President/Director of Tennessee Hands and Voices	N/A	East Tennessee Knox Co., Urban
Lori Moses	1 st Full Term	07/01/2017-6/30/2020	Deaf-Blind Representative Statutory requirement (1) deaf-blind rep. appointed by the Governor from one nomination submitted by the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind and Tennessee Deaf-Blind Association	Deaf-Blind	East Tennessee Knox Co., Urban
Patrick Sheehan	Statutory Appointment	7/01/13 – n/a	Director of the TEMA Agency or Designee	N/A	Middle Tennessee Davidson Co., Urban
Louvisia Conley	2 nd Full Term	7-1-2018-6/30/2021	Minority Representative	Hard of Hearing	West Tennessee Shelby Co., Urban
Phil Yater	1 st Full Term	7-1-2019-6/30/2022	Hard of Hearing Representative	Hard of Hearing	Middle Tennessee
Jim Moore	1 st Full Term	7-1-2019-6/30/2022	Hard of Hearing Representative	Hard of Hearing	West Tennessee

4. Are there any vacancies on the council? If so, please indicate how long the position has been vacant and explain steps that have been taken to fill any vacancies.

No current vacancies.

5. How many times did the council meet in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019? How many members were present at each meeting? Please note meetings where the council did not have a quorum.

In Fiscal Year 2018, the Council met 4 times in February, May, August, and November. The Council met 3 times in Fiscal Year 2019 and will meet again in November of 2019. Attendance was as follows:

- Feb – 10 present & 8 not present
- May – 13 present & 5 not present
- Aug – 13 present & 5 not present
- Nov – 14 present & 4 not present
- Feb – 14 present & 4 not present
- May – 13 present & 5 not present
- Aug – 13 present & 5 not present

- Next meeting is November 2019

The Council has not had any meetings where there was not a quorum.

Financial Information

6. What were the council's revenues and expenditure for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019? Does the council carry a fund balance? If yes, please provide additional relevant information regarding the fund balance.

All of the Council's revenues are from state appropriations. The state dollar expenditures for the Council were:

FY 2018 - \$939,800

FY 2019 - \$907,123

The Council does not carry a fund balance.

7. What per diem or travel reimbursements do council members receive? How much was paid to council members in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019?

Spreadsheet attached.

Sunshine Law, Public Meetings, and Conflict of Interest Policies

8. Is the council subject to Sunshine law requirements (Section 8-44-101 et seq., *Tennessee Code Annotated*) for public notice of meetings, prompt and full recording of minutes, and public access to minutes? If so, what procedures does the council have for informing the public of meetings and making minutes available to the public?

Yes. We have meeting minutes and we do allow for public attendance and comments and prior notification is not required. We do not post the minutes but they are available upon request.

The Council publishes a list of yearly meetings on its website, <http://www.tn.gov/humanservices/article/tcddbhh>, to which the public is free to attend.

9. Does the council allow for public comment at meetings? Is prior notice required for public comment to be heard? If public comment is not allowed, how does the council obtain feedback from the public and those they regulate?

Yes, the public may attend meetings with no prior notice and give comment at the meetings.

10. Does the council have policies to address potential conflict of interest by council members, employees, or other state employees who work with the council?

Yes, within the bylaws, there is a conflict of interest statement, which must be completed by all council members.

11. Does the council have a website? If so, please provide the web address. What kind of public information is available on the website? The Council has a website located here: <http://www.tn.gov/humanservices/article/tcddbhh>

And websites for each of the area center locations-please see below:

Johnson City, TN at <https://www.frontierhealth.org/deaf-and-hard-of-hearing/>

Knoxville, TN at <http://kcdtn.org/>

Chattanooga, TN at <https://www.partnershipfca.com/113/deaf-services>

Nashville, TN at <http://bridgesfordeafandhh.org/>

Jackson, TN at <http://www.j-cil.com/deaf--hard-of-hearing-services.html>

Memphis, TN at <http://www.deafconnectmidsouth.org/>

Reports, Major Accomplishments, and Proposed Legislative Changes

12. What reports has the council prepared concerning its activities, operations, and accomplishments? Who receives copies of these reports? Please provide a link to any such reports issued in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

The Annual Reports for 2018 and 2019 are attached.

13. What were the council's major accomplishments during Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019?

- 2018 – Bill for educational interpreter licensure (K-12) was passed.
- 2018 - Deaf Truckers were able to obtain commercial driver's licenses due to supports from the Council and efforts of the Executive Director
- 2018 – Deaf Drivers Act – voluntary identification of Deaf drivers to assist law enforcement and ensure safety for Deaf community
- 2019 - Developed a minimum standards for sign language interpreters in the state of TN and drafted a bill that will go before legislature in 2020.
- 2019 – Deaf Mentor Program established to assist parents who have children with hearing loss
- 2019 – Mental Health Task Force established to focus on Mental Health needs for individuals who are Deaf
- 2019 – Reinstate services in Memphis area – Community of Deaf members attended the meeting to voice concern and service needs.
- 2019 – Words Matter law passed

14. Section 71-4-2106, *Tennessee Code Annotated*, calls for the council to “ensure that long range planning is conducted which shall include a description of the locations and geographic service areas for community service centers, as well as a determination of personnel needs and strategies for coordinating service providers at state and local levels.” How many community service centers for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing are operational and where are those community service centers located? Are there plans to open additional community service centers? How does the council monitor the service centers and other community services?

The below centers are monitored by quarterly visits and yearly audit completed by the Executive Director of the Council. At this time, there are no plans to open additional community services centers.

**Tennessee Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Contact Information and the Counties They Serve**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Johnson City: Pager: 423-410-6318

Knoxville: 865-579-0832 at the prompt dial 50

Chattanooga: Pager: 423-395-1913

Nashville: 615-244-0979

Jackson: 731-282-2858 or 888-877-8830

Memphis: Pager: 901-392-4768

Memphis

Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Phone: (615) 248-8828 (V & TTY)

TTY: (615) 244-0979 (24-hour)

Fax: (615) 248-4797

Video Phone: (615) 290-5147

Email: info@bridgesfordeafandhh.org

Counties served: Fayette, Haywood, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton

Jackson

Jackson Center for Independent Living,

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

1981 Hollywood Drive, Suite 200

Jackson, TN 38305

Phone: (731) 664-3986

TTY: (731) 664-3970

Fax: (731) 668-0406

Video Phone: (731) 256-7026

Email: beth@jcil.tn.org

Counties served: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Humphreys, Lake, Lawrence, Lewis, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Perry, Wayne, and Weakley

Nashville

Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

935 Edgehill Ave.

Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: (615) 248-8828 (V & TTY)

TTY: (615) 244-0979 (24-hour)

Fax: (615) 248-4797

Video Phone: (615) 290-5147

Email: info@bridgesfordeafandhh.org

Counties Served: Cheatham, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Houston, Macon, Montgomery, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Steward, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, and Wilson

Chattanooga

Partnership Services for Family, Children, and Adults

Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

1801 Duncan Avenue

Chattanooga, TN 37404

Phone: (423) 697-3842

TTY: (423) 697-3831

Fax: (423) 697-3846

Video Phone: (423) 208-9802

Email: Llawson@partnershipfca.org

Counties Served: Bedford, Bledsoe, Bradley, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hamilton, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Moore, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, and Warren

Knoxville

Knoxville Center for the Deaf

3731 Martin Mill Pike

Knoxville, TN 37920-2452

Phone: (865) 579-0832

TTY: (865) 573-5640

Fax: (865) 577-0656

Video Phone: (865) 622-2308

Email: info@kcdtn.org

Website: www.kcdtn.org

Counties Served: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Clay, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union, and White, Johnson City

Johnson City

Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2243 Eddie Williams Road

Johnson City, TN 37601

Phone: (423) 434-0447

TTY: (423) 434-0448

Fax: (423) 434-0880

Video Phone: (423) 218-1215 or (866) 954-9205

Email: jharrison@frontierhealth.org

Counties Served: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

How do we monitor? Quarterly monitoring visits; year audits?

15. Please describe any items related to the council that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

None at this time.

16. Should the council be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the council affect the public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of Tennessee?

Yes, the Council should continue as it advocates for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment. The Council also serves a resource for any members of the public to promote coordination in programs for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing. No other group currently services this role and purpose so allowing the Council to sunset would potentially be harmful to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Tennessee, particularly those who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

At the request of the Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, all agencies that provide responses to questions as part of the Q&A process should also provide the following information.

17. Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the responses provided to the sunset review questions.

Whitney Page, Assistant Commissioner.

18. Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.

Whitney Page, Assistant Commissioner.

19. Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.

Whitney Page, Assistant Commissioner, Whitney.Page@tn.gov; (615) 313-4707.

GL Unit	AP Unit	Vendor ID	Vendor Name	Invoice ID	Invoice Date
34501	34501	193341	April Haggard	8/3-8/4/2017	8/18/2017
34501	34501	193341	April Haggard	8/3-8/4/2017	8/18/2017
34501	34501	193341	April Haggard	AHaggard 11/02-11/03	11/6/2017
34501	34570	193341	April Haggard	193341MAY0318	5/16/2018
34501	34501	152084	Eric Fleet	EFleet 11/03	11/6/2017
34501	34570	152084	Eric Fleet	152084FEB020118	2/13/2018
34501	34501	149372	James Ellis Smith	J Smith 08/03 - 08/04/17	8/7/2017
34501	34501	149372	James Ellis Smith	JSmith 11/02-11/03	11/6/2017
34501	34570	149372	James Ellis Smith	149372FEB020118	2/13/2018
34501	34570	149372	James Ellis Smith	149372MAY0318	5/16/2018
34501	34570	221003	Linda Jean Pope	221003MAY0318	5/16/2018
34501	34501	124985	Louvisia A Conley	8/3-8/4/2017	8/18/2017
34501	34501	124985	Louvisia A Conley	8/3-8/4/2017	8/18/2017
34501	34501	124985	Louvisia A Conley	LConley 11/02-11/03	11/6/2017
34501	34570	124985	Louvisia A Conley	124985FEB020118	2/13/2018
34501	34501	203482	William Edward White Jr	WWhite 11/03	11/6/2017
34501	34570	203482	William Edward White Jr	203482MAY0418	5/16/2018

Voucher ID	Voucher Entered Date	Fund	Dept	Program	Location Cf	User Code	Account
197536	8/18/2017	11000	3457003403	703430	75009	734000	70814000
197536	8/18/2017	11000	3457003403	703430	75009	734000	70814000
201896	11/7/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
368379	5/16/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
201894	11/7/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
360731	2/14/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
200329	10/11/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
201897	11/7/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
360730	2/14/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
368380	5/16/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
369380	5/30/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
197534	8/18/2017	11000	3457003403	703430	75009	734000	70814000
197534	8/18/2017	11000	3457003403	703430	75009	734000	70814000
201893	11/7/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
360740	2/14/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
201895	11/7/2017	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000
368381	5/16/2018	11000	3457002400	702400	19059	724000	70814000

Descr	Account Descr	Fiscal Year	Acct Period	Acctg Date	Monetary	Posting Date
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	2	8/18/2017	\$76.06	8/21/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	2	8/18/2017	\$281.04	8/21/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	5	11/7/2017	\$438.31	11/7/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	11	5/16/2018	\$463.58	5/21/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	5	11/7/2017	\$31.96	11/7/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	8	2/14/2018	\$31.96	2/15/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	4	10/11/2017	\$324.64	10/13/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	5	11/7/2017	\$388.16	11/7/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	8	2/14/2018	\$401.55	2/15/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	11	5/16/2018	\$160.74	5/21/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	11	5/30/2018	\$126.90	5/30/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	2	8/18/2017	\$47.45	8/21/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	2	8/18/2017	\$175.33	8/21/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	5	11/7/2017	\$292.48	11/7/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	8	2/14/2018	\$292.48	2/16/2018
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	5	11/7/2017	\$182.36	11/7/2017
TCDDDBHH	Travel by third party vendors	2018	11	5/16/2018	\$182.36	5/21/2018
					<u>\$3,897.36</u>	

Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing



Membership Packet

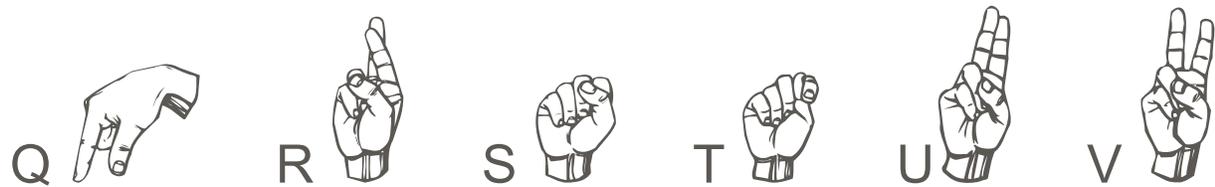
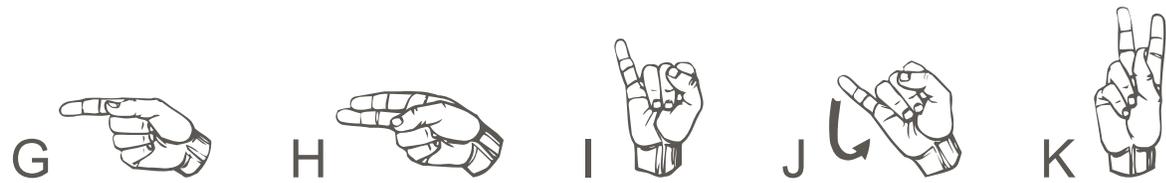
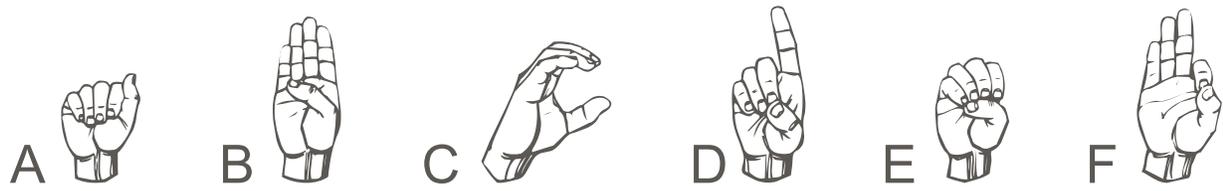
Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing

520 W. Summit Hill Drive

Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Phone: 865-297-4352 • FAX:865-594-5827

“Providing and Empowering Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Tennesseans Live the Successful Lives They Deserve”



-CONTENTS-

Member Contact List/Biography	Page 4
TCDDDBHH Mission Statement	Page 5
Tennessee Code Annotated Citation	Page 6
TCDDDBHH ByLaws	Page 12
Community Center Listing	Page 18
TCDDDBHH Operating Standards	Page 20
Reimbursement Information	Page 21
Commitment Form	Page 22

(Council Members' Contact Info lists)

***Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing's
Mission Statement***

"The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing people through coordination, public awareness, consultation, and education in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment."



The Old Tennessee School for the Deaf in downtown Knoxville

TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED

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*** Current through the 2015 Regular Session and amendments approved at the November 4, 2014 General Election ***

Title 71 Welfare
Chapter 4 Programs and Services for Persons With Disabilities
Part 21 Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing

71-4-2101. Part definitions.

(1) A "deaf-blind person" means the same as an "individual who is deaf-blind" and both mean any individual:

(A) (i) Who has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or a field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees (20 degrees), or a progressive visual loss having a prognosis leading to one (1) or both these conditions;

(ii) Who has a chronic hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification, or a progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to this condition; and

(iii) For whom the combination of impairments described in subdivisions (1)(A)(i) and (ii) cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining a vocation;

(B) Who despite the inability to be measured accurately for hearing and vision loss due to cognitive or behavioral constraints, or both, can be determined through functional and performance assessment to have severe hearing and visual disabilities that cause extreme difficulty in attaining independence in daily life activities, achieving psychosocial adjustment, or obtaining vocational objectives; or

(C) Meets such other requirements as the secretary may prescribe by regulation;

(2) A "deaf person" is defined as one whose hearing is totally impaired or one whose hearing, with or without amplification, is so seriously impaired that the primary means of receiving spoken language is through visual input such as, but not limited to, speechreading, sign language, finger spelling, or writing; and

(3) "Secretary" means the United States secretary of education.

71-4-2102. Creation of the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing.

Effective July 1, 2013, there is hereby created the Tennessee council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, which has the duty to:

(1) Advocate services affecting people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing in the areas of public services, health care, education, vocational training, employment opportunity, emergency services, resource sharing and communication;

(2) Act as a bureau of information for people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing to state agencies and public institutions providing health care, employment, vocational, educational services, resource sharing, and emergency services to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, and to local agencies and programs;

(3) Collect facts and statistics and other special studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing in this state;

(4) Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the national, state, and local levels;

(5) Encourage and assist local governments and agencies in the development of programs for people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing;

(6) Cooperate with public and private agencies and units of local, state, and federal governments in promoting coordination in programs for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing;

(7) Authorize the executive director to prepare an annual report and needs assessment to the council that reviews the status of state services for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing. The council shall submit the approved report and needs assessment to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives and make this report available to organizations serving the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing; and

(8) Make recommendations for needed improvements and to serve as an advisory body in regard to new legislation affecting the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing.

71-4-2103. Members -- Terms -- Meetings -- Reimbursement for expenses.

(a) The council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing shall consist of eighteen (18) members and shall be composed as follows: the commissioners of education, human services, health, mental health and substance abuse, and safety or their designees, the

assistant commissioner of rehabilitation services or the assistant commissioner's designee, a representative of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, a representative of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the president of the Tennessee Association of the Deaf, two (2) deaf consumer representatives appointed by the governor, one (1) president of a Hearing Loss Association of America chapter, two (2) hard of hearing consumer representatives appointed by the governor, the president of the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the president of the Tennessee Hands & Voices, one (1) deaf-blind representative who may be appointed by the governor from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested deaf-blind groups including, but not limited to, the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind and the Tennessee Deaf-Blind Association, and one (1) minority representative who may be appointed by the governor from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested minority deaf advocate groups including, but not limited to, chapters of the Tennessee Black Deaf Advocates. In appointing the deaf-blind representative and the minority representative to the council as provided in this subsection (a), the governor shall consult with interested deaf-blind and minority deaf advocate groups to determine qualified persons to fill the positions.

(b) The deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing representatives shall serve terms of three (3) years, except that to ensure staggered terms, the governor shall designate that two (2) of the six (6) members initially appointed to serve a one-year term, two (2) to serve two-year terms, and two (2) to serve three-year terms. Any position that becomes vacant prior to the expiration of a full term shall be filled only for the period of the unexpired term. In making appointments to the council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, the governor shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) person appointed to serve on the council is sixty (60) years of age or older.

(c) (1) The commissioner of education shall call the first meeting of the council, at which time, and annually thereafter, the members shall elect a chair. Thereafter, the council shall meet at the call of the chair, but at least quarterly.

(2) (A) Council members shall attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the required quarterly meetings.

(B) Any council member who fails to attend meetings as required in subdivision (c)(2) (A) shall be removed as a member by the appointing authority.

(d) Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services other than reimbursement for traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. All reimbursement for travel expenses shall be in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

71-4-2104. Executive director -- Duties -- Qualifications.

(a) The council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing shall recommend to the

governor an executive director and shall fix the executive director's duties and responsibilities. The executive director shall serve as executive officer and secretary to the council and shall be a full-time employee of the council. Compensation for the executive director shall be established by the council with the approval of the commissioner of human resources. All reimbursement for travel expenses shall be in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b) The executive director, with the advice and consent of the council, may, to the extent of available funds, plan and oversee the establishment of service centers for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, as well as, or in addition to, support and coordinate the activities of the existing centers in cooperation with the local board of directors.

(c) The executive director, with the advice and consent of the council, shall:

(1) Promote accessibility of all governmental services to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing citizens in Tennessee;

(2) Identify agencies, both public and private that provide community services, evaluate the extent to which they make services available to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing people, and cooperate with the agencies in coordinating and extending these services;

(3) Encourage the mutual exchange of ideas and information on services for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing people between federal, state and local governmental agencies, and private organizations and individuals;

(4) Survey the needs of people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing in Tennessee, and assist the council in the preparation of its report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives;

(5) Develop a strategy to create minimum standards for all sign language interpreters in Tennessee and make recommendations on how to implement these strategies to appropriate state departments, the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives and general assembly;

(6) Promote the training of interpreters for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing; and

(7) Perform such other duties as may be required by law.

(d) In selecting an executive director, the council shall select an individual who is fluent in the American sign language of the deaf and otherwise qualified.

(e) The executive director is authorized to arrange for such clerical or other assistance as may be required and as approved by the council.

71-4-2105. Data supplied by state agencies and political subdivisions.

The council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing may request and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or agency of the state or of any political subdivision of the state such data as might be needed to enable it to properly carry out its activities under this part.

71-4-2106. Plans for implementing community services for the hearing impaired.

The council shall ensure that long range planning is conducted, which shall include a description of the locations and geographic service areas for community service centers, as well as a determination of personnel needs and strategies for coordinating service providers at state and local levels.

71-4-2107. Purposes of community service centers.

The purposes of community service centers for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing shall be to:

(1) Inform deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons and their families of their rights to services offered locally and to coordinate their referral to the appropriate organization;

(2) Coordinate communication between deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons and the desired agency or organization, and promote the accessibility of community services to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons;

(3) Coordinate the provision of instruction in sign language to persons in community agencies;

(4) Inform interested staff of community and professional organizations about the nature of deafness, deaf-blindness and hearing loss and the capabilities of people experiencing it;

(5) Provide services as outlined by this part to employers of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons and related members of the family that may be involved;

(6) Provide the specified services to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons qualified under this part without cost;

(7) Serve as an advocate for the rights and needs of people who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing; and

(8) Help deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing citizens to become self-sufficient in meeting their needs in the community.

71-4-2108. Source of funds.

The council for the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing is authorized to pursue and receive moneys from any source, including appropriate federal funds, gifts, grants, and bequests, which shall be expended for the purposes designated in this part.

71-4-2109. Authorization for other agencies to supply services.

The governor is authorized to designate existing departments of state government, or divisions of state government, to provide statewide services to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing as specified in this part.

TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF, DEAF-BLIND AND HARD OF HEARING BY-LAWS

Article I – Council Mission

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing, and people through coordination, public awareness, consultation, and education in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment.

Article II – Purpose of the By-Laws

The purpose of these by-laws of the Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing (hereinafter called the Council) is to provide for the orderly conduct of the affairs of the Council. In instances where these by-laws conflict with the law, rules and/or regulations of the State of Tennessee or appropriate departments or divisions thereof or with other laws, these laws, rules and/or regulations shall prevail.

Article III – Membership in the Council

- Section 1: **Members.** Membership in the Council shall be limited to those persons specified by the **Tennessee Code Annotated (71-4-2103)**.
- Section 2: **Designees.** A member of the Council may appoint another person to represent him at a meeting of the Council, provided written notice of this intent is provided to the Chairperson of the Council at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting and provided that a majority of the Council members present at the meeting accept the appointed representative. Duly appointed and accepted representatives shall enjoy the privileges of membership during the meeting and shall receive reimbursement for traveling expenses incurred in attending the meeting, subject to the limitations specified by law.
- Section 3: **Privileges.** Privileges of membership to be exercised at Council meetings shall include making and seconding motions, debate, calling for vote on motions before the Council, voting and such other privileges as are usual and customary.
- Section 4: **Resignation and Removal.** Appointed or designated members of the Council may, upon submitting written notice, resign from the Council, provided this resignation is accepted by a majority of the membership of the Council. Appointed or designated members of the Council may be removed from the Council, for cause, by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council ***present at the meeting***. Non-attendance at Council meetings may constitute cause for removal from the Council.
- Section 5: **Vacancies.** When consumer or non-consumer vacancies occur in the membership of the Council, the council shall immediately petition the appropriate authority or authorities

for a designation or election of a new Council member. Outgoing Council members may continue to serve on the Council until their replacement has been appointed.

Section 6: **Liability.** Council members shall not be held personally liable, either individually or as a body, for actions of the Council or of employees of the Council.

Article IV – Officers of the Council

Section 1: **Members.** Only members of the Council shall be officers of the Council.

Section 2: **Officers.** The elected officers of the Council shall be the Council Chairperson and the Council Vice-Chairperson. One of these officers shall be ***Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing*** and one shall represent Tennessee State Government on the Council. The Council Chairperson and the Council Vice-Chairperson shall be elected annually, at a time agreed upon by a majority of the membership of the Council. The Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson may resign from office, provided this resignation is accepted by a majority of the membership of the Council. The Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson may be removed from office, for cause, by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council ***present at the meeting***. The office of Council Chairperson or Council Vice-Chairperson, once vacated, shall be filled as soon as possible.

Section 3: **Council Chairperson.** The duties of the Council Chairperson shall be to set the time and place of the regular meetings of the Council, to call special meetings of the Council, to call meetings of the Council Executive Committee, to oversee the work of the Council Executive Committee, to appoint committees of the Council and committee chairpersons and, during periods when the position of Council Executive Director shall be vacant, to serve as acting Council Executive Director. The Council Chairperson shall also perform such other duties as are assigned by the Council.

Section 4: **Vice-Chairperson.** The Council Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council or the Council Executive Committee where the Council Chairperson is absent and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the Council or delegated by the Council Chairperson.

Section 5: **Executive Director.** The Council Executive Director shall be chosen from a pool of applicants recommended by a search team consisting of a representative from each of the following groups:

Tennessee Association of the Deaf
Hearing Loss Association of America Chapters in
Tennessee
Tennessee Hands and Voices

Black Deaf Advocates
Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Tennessee Department of Human Services
Tennessee Department of Health
Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland
Security
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Tennessee Department of Mental Health &
Developmental Disabilities

Other team members may be added at the discretion of the Council and the Department of Human Services. The candidate for the position will be voted on and approved by 2/3 of the Council members present at the meeting, with the official appointment made by the Department of Human Services. The Council Executive Director shall serve as executive officer of and secretary to the Council at its pleasure. The Council Executive Director shall be a full-time professional non-civil service employee of the State of Tennessee and shall be entitled to all the usual and customary privileges and benefits afforded such employees. The Council Executive Director shall be an employee of the Department, and Division, if applicable, of Tennessee State Government designated by the Governor to administer the programs of the council. The Council Executive Director may be removed from his or her position, for cause, by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council. The Council Executive Director shall perform such duties as are required by law and by the Council, including representing the Council before national, state, and local agencies, organizations, groups, bodies and before individuals. The Council Executive Director shall report in person to the Council at its meetings and in other ways to the Council deems appropriate, and shall attend all Council meetings, unless excused.

Section 6: **Employees.** All other employees of the Council shall be civil service or contract employees of the State of Tennessee and of the Appropriate Department and/or Division thereof and shall be responsible only to the Council Executive Director, provided that he/she shall be governed, in the performance of their duties, by the rules and regulations of the Department of Personnel of the State of Tennessee and of the Department and/or Division of Tennessee State Government designated by the Governor to administer the programs of the Council.

Article V – Meetings of the Council

Section 1: Regular meetings of the Council shall be held quarterly at a time and place agreed upon by a majority vote of the membership of the Council ***present at the meeting***. The agenda for regular meetings of the Council shall be set by the Council Chairperson and shall be provided to Council members at least one week in advance of the scheduled meeting time, when possible. Items may be added to or removed from the agenda during the course

of regular Council meetings by a majority vote of Council members present.

- Section 2: Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson or by any five other Council members. Notice of special meetings shall be provided to Council members at least ten days prior to the set meeting time, unless a majority of the Council Executive Committee or a majority of the membership of the Council agrees to hold a special meeting of the council without providing such notice. But in no case shall a Council meeting be held with less than twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time, when possible. Items may be added to or removed from the agenda during the course of special Council meetings by a majority vote of Council members present.
- Section 3: Sections 1 and 2 of the article IV, above notwithstanding, no meeting of the Council shall be called without sufficient prior notification to the entire Council membership of the time, place and purpose of the Council meeting.
- Section 4: If the Council Chairperson and the Council Vice-Chairperson are absent from a Council meeting, the Council members present shall elect, by majority vote, a Council member to preside at the meeting.
- Section 5: Business may be conducted at Council meetings attended by fewer than six Council members, provided such meetings are called and notice provided in accordance with the provisions specified in Sections 1, 2, and 3 of Article IV, above.
- Section 6: All meetings of the Council shall be interpreted in sign language and/or transcribed by one or more **qualified** interpreters/transcribers. In addition, tactile interpreters should be provided upon request for the deaf/blind members or attendees. Interpreters and/or transcribers shall be paid from Council funds at the prevailing rate, as established by the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.
- Section 7: Minutes shall be taken at each Council meeting and copies of these minutes shall be provided in expeditious manner to all Council members.
- Section 8: Interested persons may observe meetings of the Council and may, at the invitation of the Council Chairperson, address and be addressed by the Council.
- Section 9: The Council may adopt, at any meeting, such rules of procedure and order as the Council deems necessary or convenient, provided these rules do not conflict with the by-laws.
- Section 10: All meetings of the Council shall be open, except when the Council, by a majority vote of the members present, deems it necessary to go into Executive Session.

Article VI – Committee and Task Forces of the Council

- Section 1: A council Executive Committee, comprised of the Council Chairperson, the Council Vice-Chairperson and three other Council members shall be formed immediately subsequent to the election of the Council Chairperson and the Council Vice-Chairperson. The Council Executive Committee must contain one representative of the Executive Branch of Tennessee State Government, one representative of the Legislative Branch of the Tennessee State Government, the President of the Tennessee Association of the Deaf and the President of the Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. At least two members of the Council Executive Committee shall be deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. The membership of the Council Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership of the Council, once the foregoing requirements for representation on the Council Executive Committee have been met. Members of the Council Executive Committee may resign from the Council Executive Committee, provided this resignation is accepted by a majority of the membership of the Council. Vacancies in the council Executive Committee shall be filled, by nomination and election by the membership of the Council, as soon as possible.
- Section 2: The Council Executive Committee shall be empowered by the Council to oversee the budget of the Council, to approve the receipt and expenditure of funds by the Council, to assist the Council Chairperson in overseeing and implementing to personnel policies of the Council and to work with agencies, organizations, groups, bodies and individuals to implement the work of the Council. The Council Executive Committee may designate, by majority vote, the Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson to act in its behalf on certain matters.
- Section 3: Any call for a meeting of Council shall also be construed as a call for a meeting of the Council Executive Committee, if a Council Executive Committee meeting is deemed appropriate by the Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson. Additional meetings of the Council Executive Committee shall be called by the Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson and sufficient notice of time, place and purpose of these meetings shall be given. Any three members of the Council Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Provided one of them is the Council Chairperson or the Council Vice-Chairperson and provided at least one of them is hearing impaired. Council Executive Committee members may not designate another person to represent them on the Council Executive Committee.
- Section 4: Standing and ad hoc committees shall be created by the Council to address issues of significance to people who are deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing. The chairperson of each of these committees shall be a member of the Council appointed by the Council Chairperson, and the chairpersons of standing committees shall be approved by a majority of the membership

of the Council. The chairperson of each committee shall appoint, from both members of the Council and non-members, persons to serve on his/her committee at his/her pleasure. The Council Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of each committee. Committee chairpersons may be removed from their chairpersonship by the Council Chairperson, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the membership of the Council. Standing committees, once established, shall continue their work until they are dissolved by a majority vote of the members of the Council. Ad hoc committees shall be established for a fixed period of time, which may be extended. Committees shall not obligate or expend funds of the Council without the approval of the Council Executive Committee.

Section 5: The Council Executive Director may, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Council, establish and dissolved task forces on non-council members to address issues of significance to people who are deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing. The Council Executive Director shall appoint such persons as he/she sees fit to task force chairpersonships and may remove them from their chairpersonships. The duties of these task forces shall be to identify and research the needs of people who are deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing and to make suggestions to the Council about ways these needs can be met. The Council Chairperson may appoint Council members to these task forces. Task forces shall not obligate or expend funds of the Council without the approval of the Council Executive Committee.

Section 6: Meetings of committees and task forces of the Council shall be interpreted and /or transcribed, when **Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing** persons are present, in accordance with Article IV, Section 6 of these by-laws, except that, when other funds are available to pay interpreters/transcribers, they may be utilized before or in conjunction with Council funds.

Article VII – Amendments

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council present at the meeting, provided written notice of the proposed changes is provided Council members at least ten days in advance of the Council meeting at which they are to be proposed.

Article VIII – Miscellaneous

Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern meetings of the Council and of committees and task forces of the Council, provided they are not in conflict with the by-laws of the Council.

Article IX – Date of By-Laws Effectiveness

These by-laws shall become effective when adopted by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Council.

Revised, November 9, 2015.

Tennessee Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing **Contact Information and the Counties They Serve**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Johnson City: Pager: 423-410-6318
Knoxville: 865-579-0832 at the prompt dial 50
Chattanooga: Pager: 423-395-1913
Nashville: 615-244-0979
Jackson: 731-282-2858 or 888-877-8830
Memphis: Pager: 901-392-4768

Memphis

Deaf Connect of the Mid-South, Inc.

144 North Bellevue Boulevard

Memphis, TN 38104

Phone: (901) 278-9307

TTY: (901) 278-9308

Fax: (901) 278-9301

Video Phone: (901) 620-6062

Email: TWilson@deafconnectmidsouth.org

Counties served: Fayette, Haywood, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton

Jackson

Jackson Center for Independent Living,

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

1981 Hollywood Drive, Suite 200

Jackson, TN 38305

Phone: (731) 664-3986

TTY: (731) 664-3970

Fax: (731) 668-0406

Video Phone: (731) 256-7026

Email: beth@jcil.tn.org

Counties served: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Humphreys, Lake, Lawrence, Lewis, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Perry, Wayne, and Weakley

Nashville

Bridges

935 Edgehill Ave.

Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: (615) 248-8828 (V & TTY)

TTY: (615) 244-0979 (24-hour)

Fax: (615) 248-4797

Video Phone: (615) 290-5147

Email: info@bridgesfordeafandhh.org

Counties Served: Cheatham, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Houston, Macon, Montgomery, Maury, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Steward, Sumner, Trousdale Williamson, and Wilson

Chattanooga

Partnership Services for Family, Children, and Adults

Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

1801 Duncan Avenue

Chattanooga, TN 37404

Phone: (423) 697-3842

TTY: (423) 697-3831

Fax: (423) 697-3846

Video Phone: (423) 208-9802

Email: Llawson@partnershipfca.org

Counties Served: Bedford, Bledsoe, Bradley, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hamilton, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Moore, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, and Warren

Knoxville

Knoxville Center for the Deaf

3731 Martin Mill Pike

Knoxville, TN 37920-2452

Phone: (865) 579-0832

TTY: (865) 573-5640

Fax: (865) 577-0656

Video Phone: (865) 622-2308

Email: info@kcdtn.org

Website: www.kcdtn.org

Counties Served: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Clay, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union, and White

Johnson City

Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2243 Eddie Williams Road

Johnson City, TN 37601

Phone: (423) 434-0447

TTY: (423) 434-0448

Fax: (423) 434-0880

Video Phone: (423) 218-1215 or (866) 954-9205

Email: jharrison@frontierhealth.org

Counties Served: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington

TCDDDBHH Operating Standards

In order for our Council meetings to run smoothly and effectively, there are standards that should be followed. As with any functioning body, there must be an organized structure of conduct. Below are the Operating Standards which were developed by the TCDDDBHH Executive Committee and approved by the Council on February 12, 2009.

1. The format and location for the Council meetings will always be conducive for our purposes. Though our meetings may at times be light-hearted, parliamentary procedure will be followed as laid out in "Roberts Rules of Order". Some appropriate and timely presentations may be made which have the purpose of educating and/or motivating the Council and those in attendance. Committees of the Council will be requested to give their updates during these meetings. All mobile phones, PDA's, and other signaling technology are requested to be set on "silence mode" so as not to disturb the proceedings.
2. The Membership is the lifeblood of the Council. Communication between Council meetings of its membership is encouraged. Active recruitment of qualified applicants must be continually made by all members. A TCDDDBHH Membership Packet of basic and vital information will be given to all new members at their orientation. Attendance and active participation of every Council meeting by the Membership is extremely important and vital for the Council's statewide effectiveness. This commitment will be certified by signing the TCDDDBHH Commitment Form found at the end of the TCDDDBHH Membership Packet.
3. There are Committees within our Council. They are the Educational Committee, Legislative Committee, Communication/Interpreter Committee, and the Social Welfare Committee. These are led by effective individuals who reach out to stakeholders to gain support for the goals the Council has set. These Committees will also seek to gain each Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's support and involvement and use all resources available to reach a successful outcome.
4. Having goals for each Committee is important. To do this, each Committee will prioritize which issues need to be addressed first with an open mind. The Committees will operate, keeping their goal as a focus for all they do. In order to reach this goal, the Committee will set reachable aims with reasonable timelines and give their strategic plan and progress reports to the Council. To create an atmosphere

conducive for success, each member will support each other and celebrate successes together.

5. The Council will provide oversight of the Community Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They will measure the performance of each center and provide constructive structure to the Center Directors.
6. The Council will also conduct public hearings in order to gather input from individuals and groups from various communities across the state.

Reimbursement Information

As a member of the Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing, the State of Tennessee provides reimbursement for expenses that you incur. If you travel to the Council meeting and back without spending the night, you will be reimbursed for your mileage at the State Rate. If you decide to spend the night in hotel before the Council meeting, you will be reimbursed for your hotel expense at the State Rate and you will be provided a stipend for your food. Your reimbursement should be sent to you approximately four weeks after the meeting.

At each Council meeting, you will be provided a Travel Reimbursement Form. Please check to see if your personal information (social security number and address) is correct before signing the form. The TCDDDBHH will take care of all the rest for you. If you stayed the night in a hotel, please provide the hotel receipt to the TCDDDBHH Executive Director along with the Travel Reimbursement Form. This should be done at the beginning of each Council meeting.

Information regarding the State Rate and with hotels provide lodging at State Rate changes from time to time. Please check the website at www.gsa.gov/portal/category/100120 for up to date information. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the TCDDDBHH Executive Director at: 865-297-4352.

TCDDDBHH Conflict of Interest Statement

I _____ hereby affirm that I have no conflict of interest while serving on the Tennessee Council for the Deaf Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing. If such an issue surfaces that creates a conflict, I will make this known immediately and excuse myself from voting and/or making any decisions on such an issue. If there is a suspicion of a conflict of interest, I will produce any verification deemed appropriate to resolve the matter.

A conflict of interest arises when a Council member has a financial relationship to, or is an employee of, or on the board of Directors of an organization which intends to apply for or has an applied for a grant or contract connected with the Tennessee Department of Human Services. No member of the Council shall cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial or other benefit to the member, an organization with which they are affiliated, or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest. Any Council member who has a conflict of interest must refrain from the following:

1. Participation on the screening or selection committees involving funding decisions or recommendations,
2. Participation in the discussion and voting at Council meetings regarding funding decisions or recommendations.

When a Council member is in doubt as to the proper interpretation of this conflict of interest statement, he or she must seek the advice of the Chair and/or the Executive Director of the Council.

I have reviewed the Conflict of Interest statement and agree to uphold these requirements.

Signature

Date

Rev. 2/5/2014



TN Department of
Human Services

Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing

2018 Annual Report

Tennessee Department of Human Services

Division of Rehabilitation Services

400 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37243



The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind & Hard of Hearing (TCDDDBHH) was created in 1978 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The applicable statute can be found at Tennessee Code Annotated 74-4-2102.

An ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 4, Part 21, relative to the council for the deaf and hard of hearing was enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed by Governor Bill Haslam on May 20, 2013. The act changed the name to the Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing (TCDDDBHH). The act also expanded the council to eighteen members. The Council is located within the Tennessee Department of Human Services and is a part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Our Mission

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation and education in areas of public service, health care, education, and employment.

Responsibilities

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing has the statutory responsibility to:

1. Advocate services affecting people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in the areas of public services, healthcare, education, vocational training, employment, emergency services, resource sharing, and communication;
2. Act as a bureau of information for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing to state agencies and public institutions providing health care, employment, vocational, educational services, resource sharing, and emergency services to the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing, and to local agencies and programs;

3. Collect facts and statistics and other special studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in Tennessee;
4. Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the national, state, and local levels;
5. Encourage and assist local governments and agencies in the development of programs for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;
6. Cooperate with public and private agencies and units of local, state, and federal governments in promoting coordination in programs for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;
7. Authorize the Executive Director to prepare an annual report and needs assessment to the Council that reviews the status of state services for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. The Council shall submit the approved report and the needs assessment to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives and make this report available to organizations serving the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing; and
8. Make recommendations for needed improvements and to serve as an advisory body in regard to new legislation affecting the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 Report

Major Activities

The Council was involved in a number of activities during the last fiscal year. Activities included:

- Provided extensive communication access training covering on-site interpreters, Communication Access Real-time Transcript (CART), Real-Time Texting, computers, CapTel, Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), Video Relay Service (VRS) for consumers and employers, and other information regarding telecommunication equipment. Council members tested communication access software for Video Conference Calls, Communication Access Real-Time

Transcript (CART) mobile, Video Remote Interpreting and Real-Time Text that would benefit Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing TN state employees via laptops and smartphones. TCDDDBHH is working with the six (6) community centers to provide educational workshops focused on understanding and learning how to choose between on-site interpreters and video remote interpreting at local hospitals.

- Continued to consult with the Alternative Workforce Solutions (AWS) Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing employees on the communication access software on their laptops. Employees utilizing AWS have been instructed to use secured networks and the Vital Private Network (VPN) when using communication access software.
- Consulted with an ADA Coordinator at a local hospital concerning the use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) and on-site interpreters within the emergency department. Also provided technical assistance regarding effective communication access and patient rights for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.
- Provided an educational workshop to medical staff members explaining Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) guidelines in a medical setting as it relates to Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing people.
- Hosted meetings to learn concerns and gather feedback from Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing consumers on how to improve statewide services. Information was reported back to Council members and community centers on their behalf. Support was provided to community centers to provide Technology and Deaf Culture workshops. Developed training for ADA Coordinators and emergency room staff members regarding ways to communicate with patients who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing in the emergency room when an on-site interpreter is not immediately available.
- Continued to provide information for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing people by hosting a booth at various events and conferences on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Human Services and TCDDDBHH.

- Hosted workshops to provide training on technology access in the home and workplace for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing consumers. Training informed learners on how to use technology to access light alerts, fire alarms, security systems and communication access through their smartphones, tablets, and computers. We continue to provide consumers with annual updates.
- A Deaf-Blind Task Force sub-committee continues to develop policy and assist community centers with incentives, hiring, and training for Support Service Providers (SSP), to increase access for Deaf-Blind consumers. The TN Deaf-Blind Coordinator will assist the Council in developing and improving services for people who are Deaf-Blind in Tennessee. TCDDDBHH is continually working with community centers to develop SSP programs (also known as sighted guides) for people who are Deaf-Blind who require these services. TCDDDBHH is assisting community centers in the training and hiring of SSPs for Deaf-Blind consumers. Continued assistance will be given to the centers in order to increase the SSP services across the state.
- A Task Force sub-committee was created to improve the relationship between law enforcement and Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing communities by hosting training workshops on communication access. The Community Centers distributed visor cards for drivers. A new law called the *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Driver Safety Act* was passed. The law established the use of the Vehicle Title and Registration System database system which allows law enforcement agencies access to information identifying drivers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing during a traffic stop.
- The following workshops were provided for staff training at the Community Centers and Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers: Deaf Culture Sensitivity; Video Remote Interpreting and Your Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Patients' Rights: Effective Communication; and Reasonable Accommodations for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Employees in the Workplace. New educational workshops will be developed in the future.
- Continued to update the TCDDDBHH website and each of the six Community Centers' websites to increase public awareness on research, education, and informational activities about the abilities and capacity of persons who are Deaf,

Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing. The updated web address is <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/councils-and-committees/tcddbhh.html>

Community Centers for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing

The Tennessee Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services provides funding for Community Centers for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in Johnson City, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Jackson, and Memphis. These Community Centers report to the Council during quarterly meetings and submit their statistical data to the Executive Director of TCDDDBHH who compiles the information for the Division. The Division provides funding in performance based contracts for the six (6) regional community centers to provide:

- Interpreting services
- Information and referral
- Peer counseling and independent living skills
- Hosting educational workshops and Interpreter Training Workshops
- Access to community services
- Service Support Providers for the Deaf-Blind

The following statistics demonstrate the wide array of services provided by the six centers:

Service contacts of Deaf/DB/HH	27,265
Hours of Interpreting Services	71,194
Hours of Interpreting Services at no cost	1,562
Units of Technical Assistance Provided to Employers	237
Units of Independent Living Skills Training	604
American Sign Language Classes	569
Workshop/Seminar Hours on Deafness	394
Outreach and Referral	2,350
Support Service Providers for the Deaf-Blind	454



Memberships:

Members are appointed to the Council by the Governor and serve voluntarily without compensation. Most seats on the Council are mandated by statute. The current members of the Council are:

April Haggard	Tennessee Association of the Deaf
Naomi Pritikin	Hearing Loss Association of America
Will White	Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Mandy Johnson	Tennessee Department of Human Services
Robin Beamon	Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Nancylynn Ward	Tennessee School for the Deaf
Tiffany Kelley	Tennessee Department of Human Services
James Smith	Deaf Consumer Representative
John Evans	Hard of Hearing Consumer Representative
Eric Fleet	Deaf Consumer Representative
Ken Tedford	Hard of Hearing Consumer Representative
Alex King	Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Lori Wyke	Deaf-Blind Consumer Representative
Louvisia Conley	Minority Consumer Representative
Rebecca Walls	Tennessee Department of Health
Kodi Ogle	Tennessee Hands and Voices
Monique Brazelton	Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Patrick Sheehan	Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

TCDDDBHH Statewide Goal Plans:

- A mental health provision may be needed for those who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Currently, there are no facilities that provide mental and behavioral health services specific to these communities. TCDDDBHH (DHS) assisted in forming the Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Accessibility affiliation in partnership with Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS). Strategies have been discussed, and a survey has been developed to obtain more specific input from these communities. We have several trained interpreters, who are certified in mental health interpreting and can serve our mental health clients in working with doctors. TCDDDBHH is invited to attend the Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Access meetings.
- Mental Health Interpreting Services with People who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing: The Centers have several interpreters who have mental health licensure in interpreting. We need to provide training on how to utilize interpreters in a practical approach to mental health services with the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing mental health patients.
- More qualified professional sign language interpreters, deaf interpreters, and tactile interpreters for the Deaf-Blind may be needed to serve persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Currently, Tennessee may have a requirement for interpreters to maintain a license or certification for interpreting in early 2019. TCCDBHH is reviewing ways to improve the level of certification and training. The six centers have experienced a marked increase in interpreting hours during this fiscal year.
- TCDDDBHH has helped to develop the Emergency Awareness and Readiness Services (EARS) in 2008. This group has been very active in training weather spotters, hosting First Aid courses, and providing much needed alerting devices, such as visual smoke detectors. TCDDDBHH has continued to work with EARS in improving effective communication access with live closed captioning and on-site interpreters on local news stations, as well as receiving news alerts via text messaging. Alliances have formed with the National Weather Bureau, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Association of the Deaf,

Tennessee chapters of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and several organizations for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. TCDDDBHH and EARS are developing the toolkit of the Emergency Access for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing for the six (6) TN centers.

- TCDDDBHH is continuing to support two of the six Tennessee Community Centers: Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nashville and Knoxville Center of the Deaf, to improve community services in the Cookeville/Crossville area. Our goal is to improve services and reduce wait time for interpreters to arrive at hospitals, emergency rooms, courtrooms, and police stations. The collaboration between the two centers will strengthen services such as job placement, social work, advocacy, educational workshops, and assistive technology training for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing community in Cookeville/Crossville area.
- TCDDDBHH is approved to develop statistical reports on Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing victims who have had domestic violence at home and had a lack of communication access at courts, police stations, hospitals, workplaces, and other services. We will assist the Centers in collecting data to improve services and provide training for the police department, court system, workplace and hospitals.
- TCDDDBHH is working with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Tennessee Association of the Deaf to develop resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Truckers. The Tennessee Highway Patrol and staff members at weight stations must acknowledge that the state currently has Deaf and Hard of Hearing truck drivers with the standard Commercial Driver License and their special permission of the exemption from the hearing standard requirement by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and National Association of the Deaf.
- TCDDDBHH has attended conferences related to Technology Accessibility for Emergency Message Alerts, Video Remote Interpreting, Interpreting Services, Rehabilitation Services, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs, and Accessibility at the workplace for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. TCDDDBHH is continuing to develop a professional network system that is focused on interactions and relationships of businesses and government

services for the benefit of Vocational Rehabilitation and Community Center clients that are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.

Reported and Submitted by Paul Robertson, Executive Director

TCDDDBHH Website:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/councils-and-committees/tcddbhh.html>



TN Department of
Human Services

Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing

2019 Annual Report

Tennessee Department of Human Services

Division of Rehabilitation Services

400 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37243



The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind & Hard of Hearing (TCDDDBHH) was created in 1978 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The applicable statute can be found at Tennessee Code Annotated 74-4-2102.

An ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 4, Part 21, relative to the council for the deaf and hard of hearing was enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed by Governor Bill Haslam on May 20, 2013. The act changed the name to the Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing (TCDDDBHH). The act also expanded the council to eighteen members. The Council is located within the Tennessee Department of Human Services and is a part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Our Mission

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation and education in areas of public service, health care, education, and employment.

Responsibilities

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing has the statutory responsibility to:

1. Advocate services affecting people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in the areas of public services, healthcare, education, vocational training, employment, emergency services, resource sharing, and communication;
2. Act as a bureau of information for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing to state agencies and public institutions providing health care, employment, vocational, educational services, resource sharing, and emergency services to the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing, and to local agencies and programs;

3. Collect facts and statistics and other special studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in Tennessee;
4. Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the national, state, and local levels;
5. Encourage and assist local governments and agencies in the development of programs for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;
6. Cooperate with public and private agencies and units of local, state, and federal governments in promoting coordination in programs for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing;
7. Authorize the Executive Director to prepare an annual report and needs assessment to the Council that reviews the status of state services for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. The Council shall submit the approved report and the needs assessment to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives and make this report available to organizations serving the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing; and
8. Make recommendations for needed improvements and to serve as an advisory body in regard to new legislation affecting the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 Report

Major Activities

The Council was involved in a number of activities during the last fiscal year. Activities included:

- Provided extensive communication access training covering on-site interpreters, Communication Access Real-time Transcript (CART), Real-Time Texting, computers, CapTel, Video Remote Interpreting (VRI), Video Relay Service (VRS) for consumers and employers, and other information regarding telecommunication equipment. Council members tested communication access software for Video Conference Calls, Communication Access Real-Time

Transcript (CART) mobile, Video Remote Interpreting and Real-Time Text that would benefit Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing TN state employees via laptops and smartphones. TCDDDBHH is working with the six (6) community centers to provide educational workshops focused on understanding and learning how to choose between on-site interpreters and video remote interpreting at local hospitals.

- Continued to consult with the Alternative Workforce Solutions (AWS) Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing employees on the communication access software on their laptops. Employees utilizing AWS have been instructed to use secured networks and the Vital Private Network (VPN) when using communication access software.
- Consulted with an ADA Coordinator at a local hospital concerning the use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) and on-site interpreters within the emergency department. Also provided technical assistance regarding effective communication access and patient rights for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.
- Provided an educational workshop to medical staff members explaining Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) guidelines in a medical setting as it relates to Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing people.
- Hosted meetings to learn concerns and gather feedback from Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing consumers on how to improve statewide services. Information was reported back to Council members and community centers on their behalf. Support was provided to community centers to provide Technology and Deaf Culture workshops. Also, developed training for ADA Coordinators and emergency room staff members regarding ways to communicate with patients who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing in the emergency room when an on-site interpreter is not immediately available.
- Continued to provide information for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing people by hosting a booth at various events and conferences on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Human Services and TCDDDBHH.

- Hosted workshops to provide training on technology access in the home and workplace for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing consumers. Training informed learners on how to use technology to access light alerts, fire alarms, security systems and communication access through their smartphones, tablets, and computers. We continue to provide consumers with annual updates.
- A Deaf-Blind Task Force sub-committee continues to develop policy and assist community centers with incentives, hiring, and training for Support Service Providers (SSP), to increase access for Deaf-Blind consumers. The TN Deaf-Blind Coordinator will assist the Council in developing and improving services for people who are Deaf-Blind in Tennessee. TCDDDBHH is continually working with community centers to develop SSP programs (also known as sighted guides) for people who are Deaf-Blind who require these services. TCDDDBHH is assisting community centers in the training and hiring of SSPs for Deaf-Blind consumers. Continued assistance will be given to the centers in order to increase the SSP services across the state.
- A Task Force sub-committee was created to improve the relationship between law enforcement and Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing communities by hosting training workshops on communication access. The Community Centers distributed visor cards for drivers. A new law called the *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Driver Safety Act* was passed. The law established the use of the Vehicle Title and Registration System database system which allows law enforcement agencies access to information identifying drivers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing during a traffic stop.
- The following workshops were provided for staff training at the Community Centers and Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers: Deaf Culture Sensitivity; Video Remote Interpreting and Your Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Patients' Rights: Effective Communication; and Reasonable Accommodations for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Employees in the Workplace. New educational workshops will be developed in the future.
- TCDDDBHH reviewed ways to improve the level of certification and training of sign language interpreters in the state of Tennessee. More qualified professional sign language interpreters, deaf interpreters, and tactile

interpreters for the Deaf-Blind will be needed to serve persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. TCDDDBHH facilitated a work group to establish credentials for interpreter licensure in the state of Tennessee. The group recommended licensure, which would require interpreters to meet established requirements to obtain a license in order to practice in the state of Tennessee.

- TCDDDBHH continues to work with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Tennessee Association of the Deaf to distribute resources and provide ongoing support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Truckers. The Tennessee Highway Patrol and staff members at weigh stations must acknowledge that the state currently has Deaf and Hard of Hearing truck drivers with the standard Commercial Driver License and their special permission of the exemption from the hearing standard requirement by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and National Association of the Deaf.
- Continued to update the TCDDDBHH website and each of the six Community Centers' websites to increase public awareness on research, education, and informational activities about the abilities and capacity of persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing. The updated web address is <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/councils-and-committees/tcddbhh.html>

Community Centers for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing

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- Interpreting services
- Information and referral
- Peer counseling and independent living skills

- Hosting educational workshops and Interpreter Training Workshops
- Access to community services
- Service Support Providers for the Deaf-Blind

The following statistics demonstrate the wide array of services provided by the six centers:

Service contacts of Deaf/DB/HH	22,813
Hours of Interpreting Services	64,482
Hours of Interpreting Services at no cost	1,663
Units of Technical Assistance Provided to Employers	206.5
Units of Independent Living Skills Training	556
American Sign Language Classes	591
Workshop/Seminar Hours on Deafness	105
Outreach and Referral	1,692
Support Service Providers for the Deaf-Blind	325.75



Memberships:

Members are appointed to the Council by the Governor and serve voluntarily without compensation. Most seats on the Council are mandated by statute. The current members of the Council are:

April Haggard	Tennessee Association of the Deaf
Naomi Pritikin	Hearing Loss Association of America
Will White	Tennessee Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Mandy Johnson	Tennessee Department of Human Services
Robin Beamon	Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Dr. Vicki Kirk	Tennessee School for the Deaf
Tiffany Kelley	Tennessee Department of Human Services
James Smith	Deaf Consumer Representative
John Evans	Hard of Hearing Consumer Representative
Eric Fleet	Deaf Consumer Representative
Ken Tedford	Hard of Hearing Consumer Representative
Alex King	Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Lori Wyke	Deaf-Blind Consumer Representative
Louvisia Conley	Minority Consumer Representative
Rebecca Walls	Tennessee Department of Health
Kodi Ogle	Tennessee Hands and Voices
Monique Brazelton	Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Patrick Sheehan	Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

TCDDDBHH Statewide Goal Plans:

- A mental health provision may be needed for those who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Currently, there are no facilities that provide mental and behavioral health services specific to these communities. TCDDDBHH (DHS) assisted in forming the Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Accessibility affiliation in partnership with Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS). Strategies have been discussed, and a survey has been developed to obtain more specific input from these communities. We only have a few trained interpreters who are certified in mental health interpreting who can

serve our mental health clients in working with doctors. TCDDDBHH is invited to attend the Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Access meetings.

- Mental Health Interpreting Services with People who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing: The Centers have a few interpreters who have completed mental health interpreting training. We need to provide more training on how to utilize interpreters to use a practical approach to mental health services with the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing mental health patients.
- More qualified professional sign language interpreters, deaf interpreters, and tactile interpreters for the Deaf-Blind will be needed to serve persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Tennessee has developed a bill to propose licensure and should go before the legislation in 2020.
- TCDDDBHH has helped to develop Emergency Awareness and Readiness Services (EARS) in 2008. This group has been very active in training weather spotters, hosting First Aid courses, and providing much needed alerting devices, such as visual smoke detectors. TCDDDBHH has continued to work with EARS in improving effective communication access with live closed captioning and on-site interpreters on local news stations, as well as receiving news alerts via text messaging. Alliances have formed with the National Weather Bureau, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Association of the Deaf, Tennessee chapters of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and several organizations for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. TCDDDBHH and EARS are developing the toolkit of the Emergency Access for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing for the six (6) TN centers.
- TCDDDBHH is continuing to support two of the six Tennessee Community Centers: Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nashville and Knoxville Center of the Deaf, to improve community services in the Cookeville/Crossville area. Our goal is to improve services and reduce wait time for interpreters to arrive at hospitals, emergency rooms, courtrooms, and police stations. The collaboration between the two centers will strengthen services such as job placement, social work, advocacy, educational workshops, and assistive technology training for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing community in Cookeville/Crossville area.

- TCDDDBHH is approved to develop statistical reports on Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing victims who have experienced domestic violence at home and had a lack of communication access at courts, police stations, hospitals, workplaces, and other services. We will assist Centers in collecting data to improve services and provide training for the police department, court system, workplace and hospitals.
- TCDDDBHH continues to support the work with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and staff members at weigh stations to acknowledge the legitimacy of Deaf and Hard of Hearing truckers.
- TCDDDBHH representatives continue to attend conferences related to Technology Accessibility for Emergency Message Alerts, Video Remote Interpreting, Interpreting Services, Rehabilitation Services, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Programs, and Accessibility at the workplace for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. TCDDDBHH is continuing to develop a professional network system that is focused on interactions and relationships of businesses and government services for the benefit of Vocational Rehabilitation and Community Center clients that are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing.

Reported and Submitted by Tiffany Kelley, Area Director

TCDDDBHH Website:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/councils-and-committees/tcddbhh.html>