

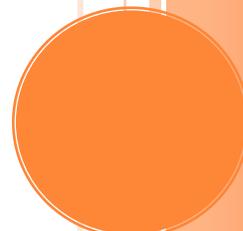


ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2011 & Fiscal Year 2012

*State of New Mexico
Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing*

NMCDHH
6/30/2012



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2011& Fiscal Year 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair	2
Letter from the Executive Director	4
Agency Overview	5
Purpose	5
Mission	5
Vision	5
Accomplishments & Highlights	6
Legislative Performance Measures	6
2012 Conference on Hearing Loss	12
Programs & Services	14
Communication Access & Development	14
Public Policy & Advocacy	15
Telecommunications & Technical Assistance	18
Staff Members	20
Board of Commissioners	26
Budget	29
Statistics	30
Contact Information	32

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Mark Apodaca, MBA

June 30th, 2012

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Governor Martinez:

The New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has come a long way since its founding in 1991. Its long-term goal is to continue to improve the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing New Mexicans which means, in other words, the agency is a human services agency. It is our passion to provide individuals with effective leadership, education, advocacy and programs to remove the barriers to the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual well-being.

New Mexico is the fifth largest state in the United States and there are more than 250,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals living in the Land of Enchantment. The challenge the Commission's staff faces every year is how to better utilize its available resources to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population.

Currently, the Commission has offices located in Albuquerque and Las Cruces but staff does serve individuals who live in other cities such as Santa Fe, Roswell, Taos, Alamogordo and rural areas. With the hiring of a new Executive Director, who started her position in June 2012, the board of directors, through its strategic planning committee, will work with her in developing a new five-year strategic plan.

As you go through this annual report, you will notice that for the most part, the Commission continues to meet the targets of its performance measurements, which are required by state legislature. The numbers will continue to increase each year as more and more Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals seek the very much needed services.

As I close this message, I wish to point out that the Commission hosted its third conference for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing New Mexicans. Over 225 individuals attended the recent two-day conference on April 25th & 26th, 2012, compared to 157 in 2010 and 78 in 2008. I will not be surprised if we hit the 300 mark in 2014 because this conference continues to be in high demand.

I wish the staff and board of directors a productive FY2013 with more accomplishments!

Mark Apodaca

Mark Apodaca, MBA
Chair of the Board

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ellen Roth

June 30th, 2012

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 400
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Governor Martinez:

It is my pleasure to join the Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing as the Executive Director. I look forward to focusing on the Governor's initiatives, while working closely with the community.

I am proud to be part of the Agency, which is filled with dedicated staff. The staff works daily to carry out the mission and vision and ensure the lives of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind individuals improve.

The goal for the Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to ensure a barrier free environment for constituents, which ranges from provision of assistive technology to signed language interpreters.

As we look back over Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012, we see an increase in collaboration with other agencies on advocacy and the development of policies to create better accessibility.

I look forward to brighter future for all of us in this state of New Mexico.

Ellen Roth

Ellen Roth
Executive Director

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Purpose

The State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NMCDHH) was established by the New Mexico Legislature (NMSA 1978 § 28-11B-2) to promote services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind throughout New Mexico.

Mission Statement

The State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides effective leadership, education, advocacy and programs to reduce barriers to the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual well-being of Deaf and Hard of Hearing New Mexicans and their families, friends and colleagues.

Vision Statement

Impact and Empower

The State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a dynamic resource that will enhance the quality of life for Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of New Mexico by being:

- The recognized advocate in important issues impacting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community
- The proactive provider of innovative programs and services
- The statewide umbrella and information clearinghouse for interested individuals, organizations, agencies and institutions

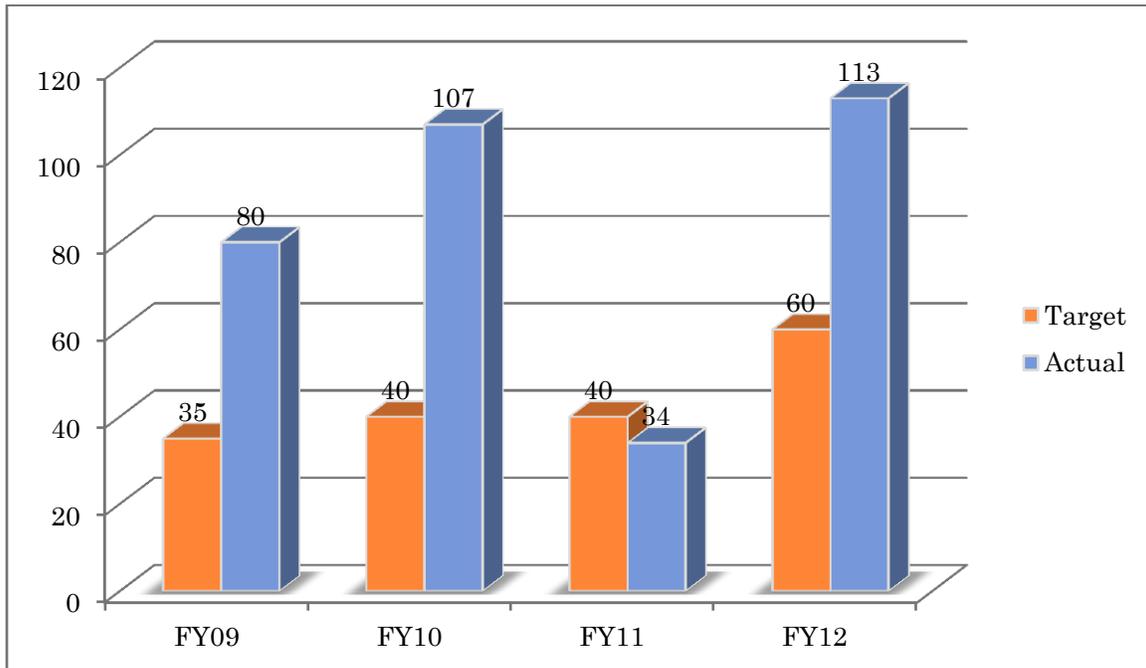
“The Commission gives Deaf & Hard of Hearing people a new lease on life.”

-NMCDHH Client

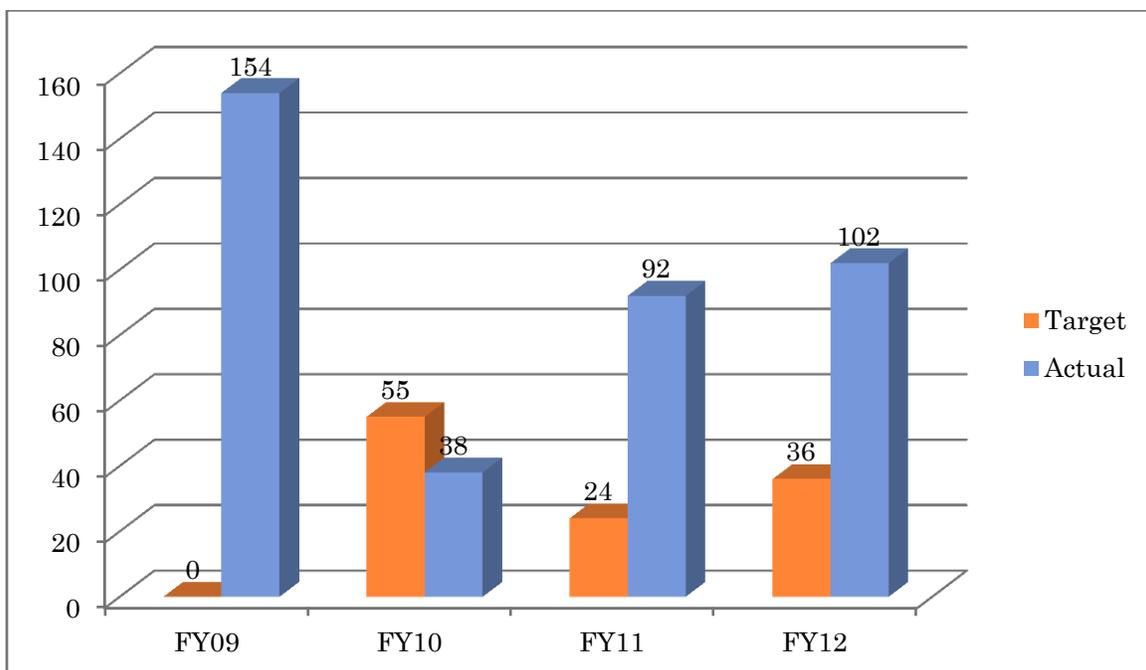
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Legislative Performance Measures

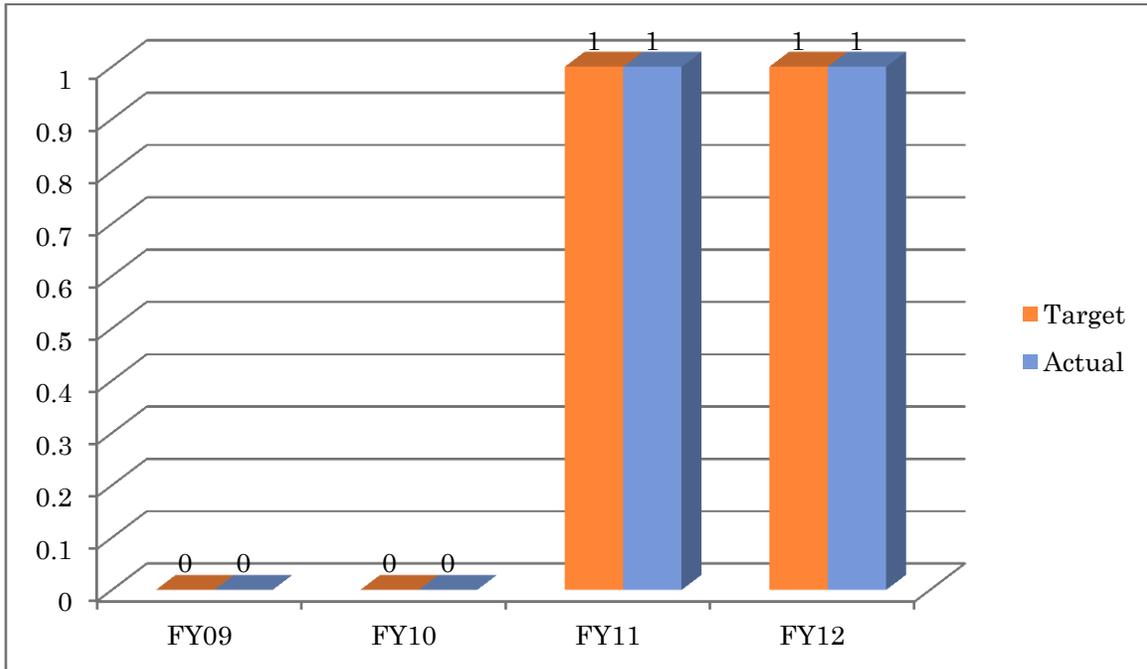
Number of workshops & training sessions conducted – FY12 188% of Goal Met



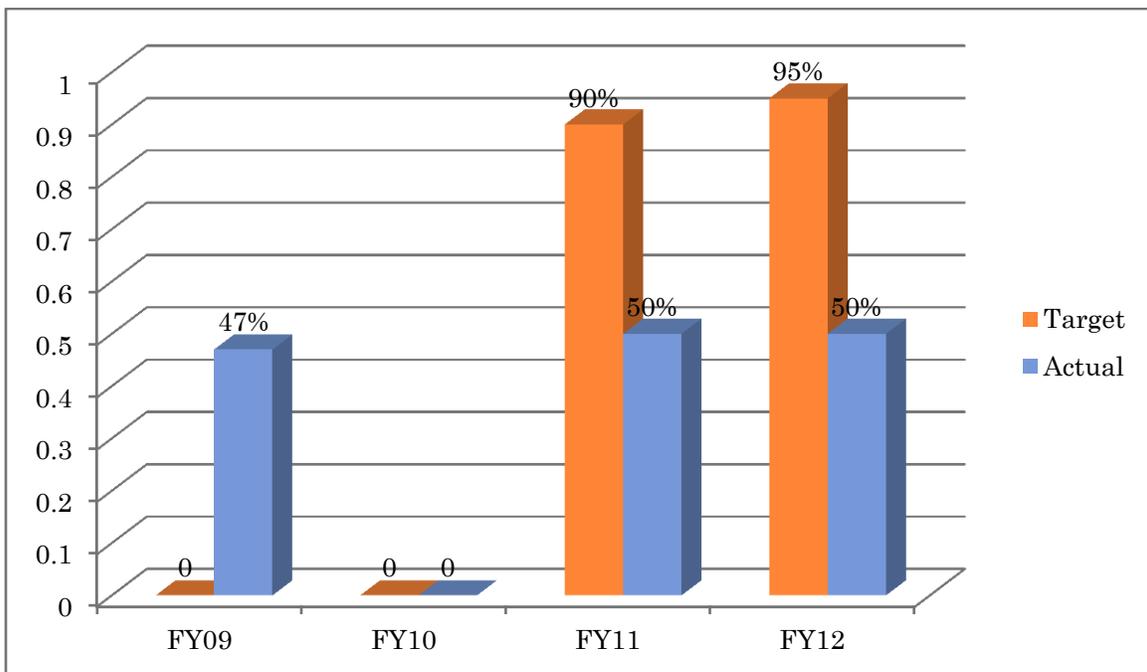
Number of Outreach Events Coordinated – FY12 283% of Goal Met



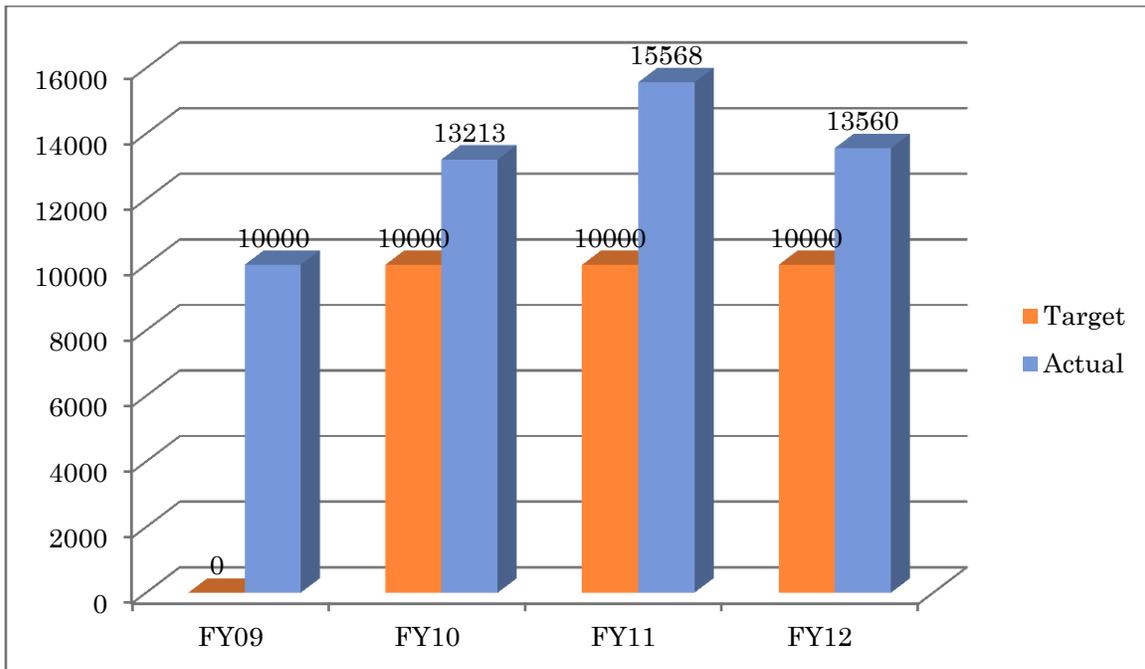
Number of Reviews & Audits of the Telecommunications Relay Service – FY12 100% of Goal Met



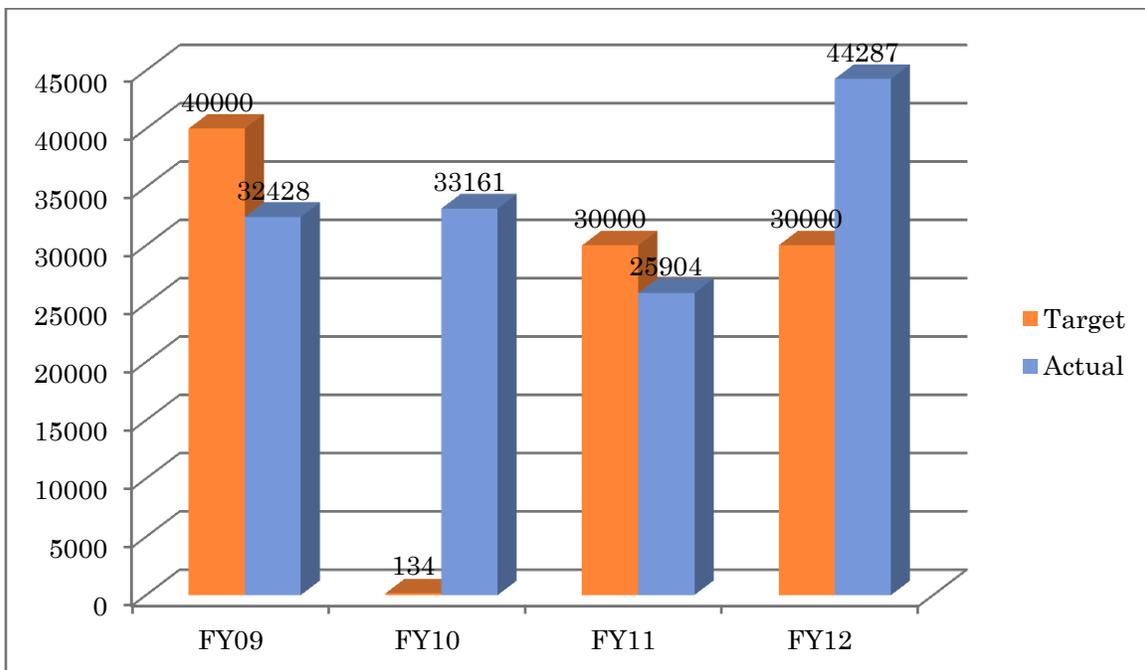
Percent of Employee Files That Contain Performance Appraisals Completed & Submitted within State Personnel Guidelines – FY12 50% of Goal Met



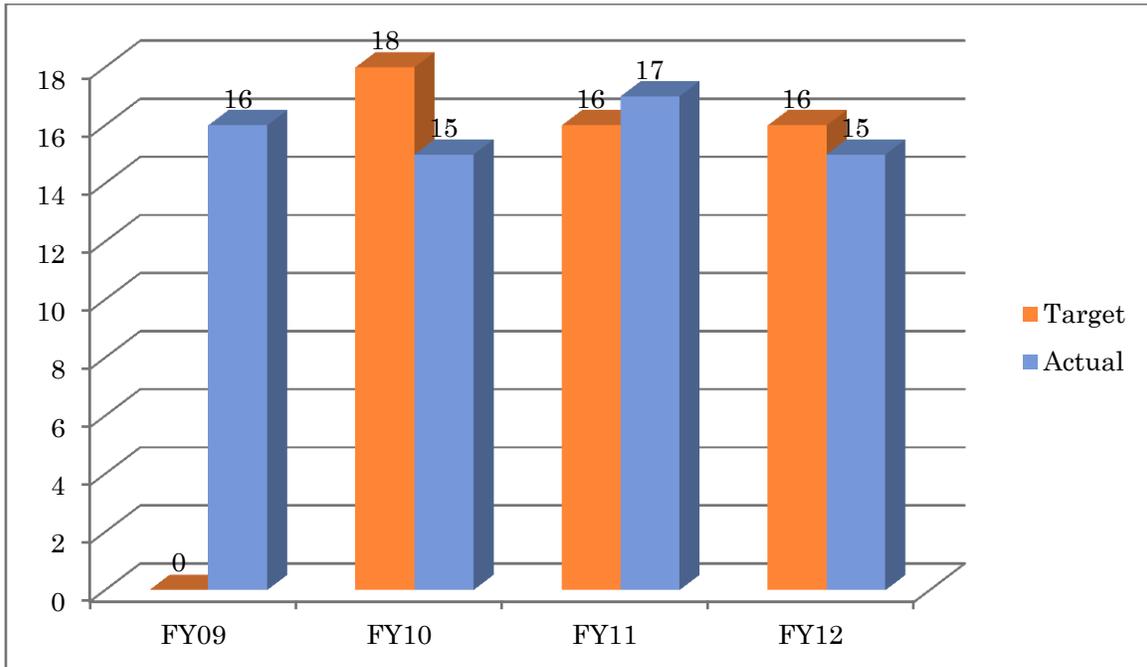
Average Number of Relay Calls Per Month – FY12 136% of Goal Met



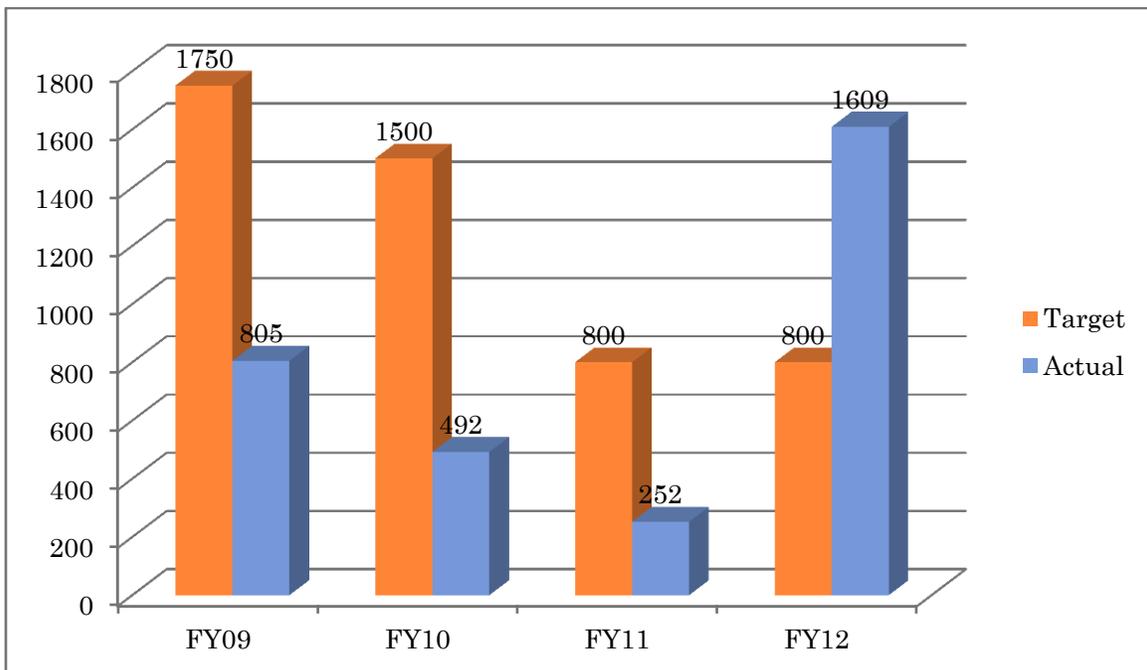
Hours Provided by the Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service – FY12 148% of Goal Met



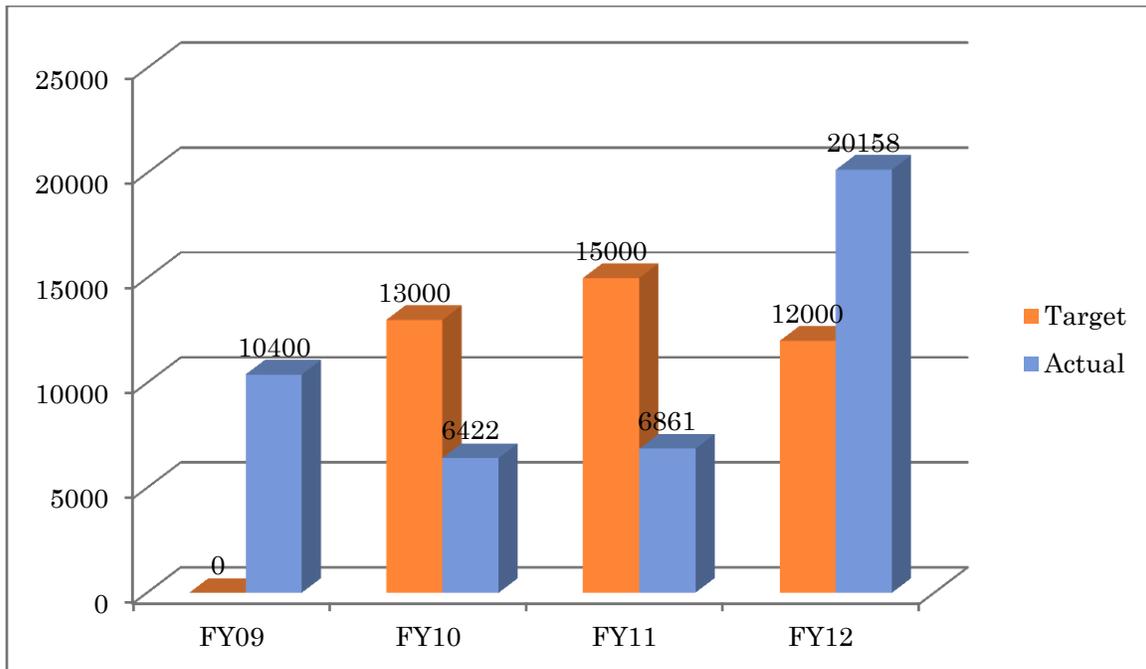
Number of Sign Language Interpreting Mentors – FY12 94% of Goal Met



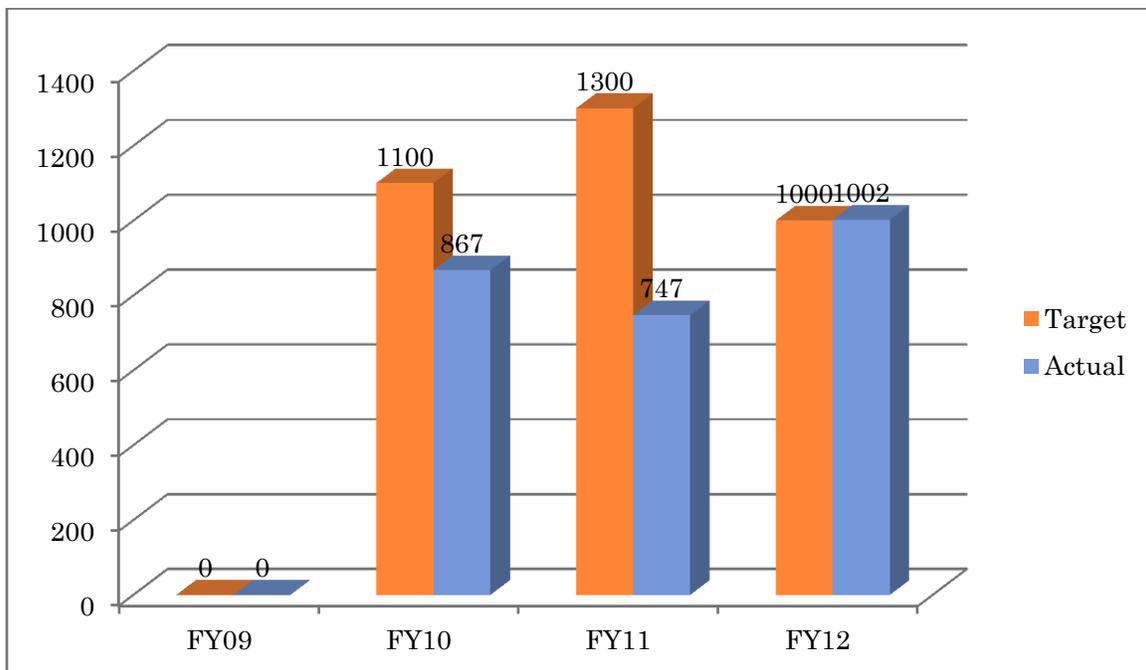
Number of Accessible Technology Distributions – FY12 201% of Goal Met



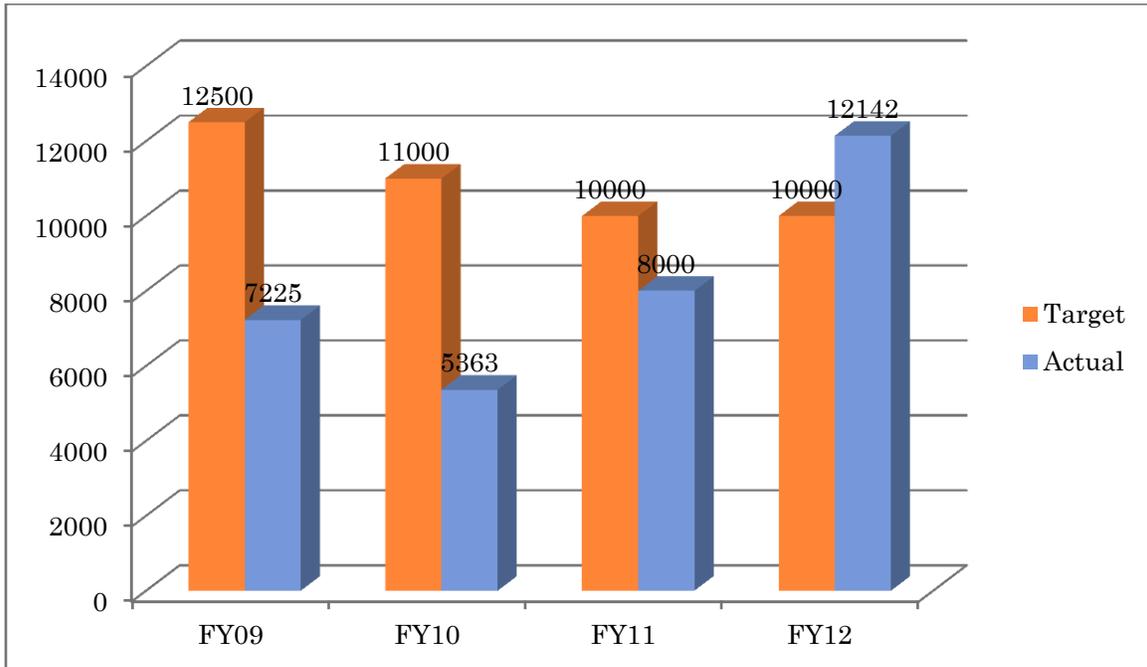
Staff Hours Devoted to Reducing Communication Barriers – FY12 168% of Goal Met



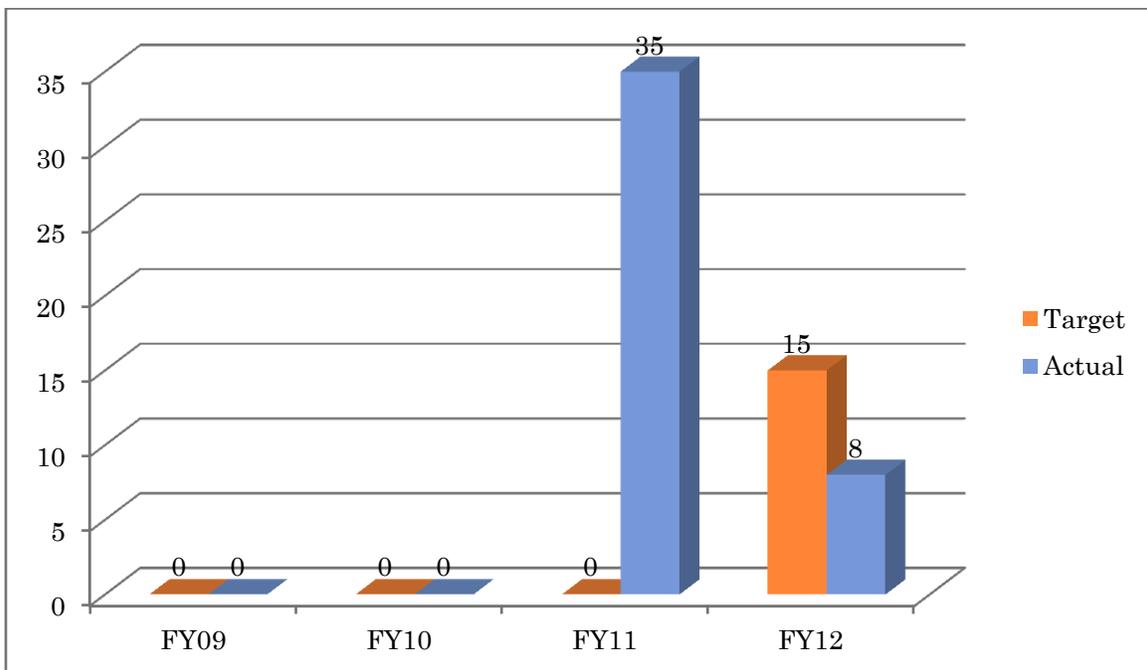
Number of Clients Provided Assistance to Reduce or Eliminate Communication Barriers – FY12 100% of Goal Met



Number of Information Referrals and Outreach Contacts – FY12 121% of Goal Met



Number of Newly Issued New Mexico Community Signed Language Interpreter Licenses – FY12 53% of Goal Met



2012 CONFERENCE ON HEARING LOSS

The 2012 Conference on Hearing Loss was a success! We have received great feedback from the event, and individuals are already inquiring when the next Conference will be.

- *225 People in Attendance*
 - *2010 Conference = 157 attendees*
 - *2008 Conference = 78 attendees*
- *26 Plenary Sessions & Breakout Workshops*
- *Continuing Education Credits Offered:*
 - *Signed Language Interpreters*
 - *Social Workers*
 - *Therapists & Counselors*
 - *Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists*
 - *Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors*
- *Welcome Addresses, Plenary Speakers, Spotlight Presenters*
 - *Jeremiah Ritchie, Director of Boards & Commissions*
 - *Attorney General Gary King*
 - *Howard Rosenblum, Esq, Executive Director of the National Association of the Deaf*
 - *Dr. Sam Trychin, PhD, Psychologist*
 - *Lou Ferrigno*



6/30/2012

25 Sponsors

- 2010 Conference = 18 Sponsors
- 2008 Conference = 16 Sponsors
 - *Teltex*
 - *ACS – Alternative Communication Services*
 - *Caption First*
 - *Clarity*
 - *Relay New Mexico*
 - *Amplicom*
 - *Purple*
 - *Sprint*
 - *Amerigroup*
 - *CaptionCall*
 - *Cochlear*
 - *Comfort Audio*
 - *COPD*
 - *DeBee Communications*
 - *Disability Rights New Mexico*
 - *GWC Looping*
 - *Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque*
 - *HearingImpaired.net*
 - *New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management*
 - *New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*
 - *New Mexico Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf*
 - *Silent Call Communications*
 - *Silver & Stones Designs*
 - *Sorenson Video Relay Service*
 - *Team Builders 8*



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

COMMUNICATION ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Communication Access and Development Department (CADD) acts as an information resource for the public regarding communication access for individuals with hearing loss. CADD provides professional development opportunities for signed language interpreters and real-time captioners across New Mexico, and administers contracts with other entities to provide further development opportunities. Programs include New Mexico Mentoring, work with the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board, and other professional development options.

The New Mexico Mentoring Program

The New Mexico Mentoring Program supports the professional development of New Mexico signed language interpreters. Qualified, trained mentors guide program participants through 16-week sessions using individualized and structured curricula to address specific skills for effective interpreting.

New Mexico Signed Language Interpreter Licensure

New Mexico requires all signed language interpreters to be licensed through the Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) in order to protect consumers of interpreting services. NMCDHH works closely with RLD and the licensure board.

Professional Development for interpreters and CART providers

NMCDHH provides a range of programs and services for signed language interpreters and CART providers to improve their skills and better serve the community.

“New Mexico Mentoring was very educational, I was grateful to work with and be encouraged by a certified interpreter who has a great deal of experience in interpreting. We are fortunate to have this program in New Mexico and I would recommend this program to any interpreter.”

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

THE PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT (PPAD) PROVIDES INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY, SYSTEM ADVOCACY, TRANSITION SERVICES, AND PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT. NMCDHH PARTNERS WITH STATE AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE ON SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND PARTICIPATES IN SPECIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS PROVIDING OUTREACH TO DEAF AMERICAN INDIANS/NATIVE AMERICANS AND ENSURING CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY. PROGRAMS INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL AND SERVICE ADVOCACY, PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSITION SERVICES.

Individual and System Advocacy

NMCDHH advocates on an individual level and a system level for individuals who face communication barriers in employment, government and business settings. Additionally, communication barriers such as those commonly found in health care settings or other systems are addressed. NMCDHH further advocates by engaging in active legislative advocacy, ensuring that statewide and federal disability regulations and laws are in place and adhered to. Awareness and educational trainings are also provided.

Public Policy Development

NMCDHH endeavors to develop and implement public policy that directly impacts the daily lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing New Mexicans.

Transition Services

PPAD, with a transition specialist, provides communication access advocacy for specific settings, such as school meetings, and makes appropriate referrals to agencies and schools with experience in working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. NMCDHH also works with professionals from various school districts to ensure that students receive appropriate services. Furthermore, NMCDHH also is part of numerous transition groups for children with disabilities. NMCDHH works with the New Mexico School for the Deaf, the ASL Charter

School, and the Albuquerque Public Schools Mainstream Program.

NMCDHH Mini-Grant Program

Mini-grant applications were distributed to the community and eight proposals were received. A committee was formed to evaluate the applications, and five proposals were awarded for a total of \$ 49,876.00. The agencies and their award amounts are:

- Community Outreach Program for the Deaf of New Mexico to provide a total of 12 workshops for the deaf and hard of hearing community in New Mexico. 6 workshops are for the senior community and 6 for the general community. \$ 7,500.00
- Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque to provide 10 public education meetings with CART at the 10 meetings, do informational activities, and continue to support the LOOP initiative in New Mexico. \$ 10,000.00
- The Ability Center for Independent Living, Las Cruces, NM Mini-grant to provide ASL classes to people working with/family of Deaf individuals. \$ 10,000.00
- DeBee Communications to produce 4 Public Service Announcements. \$ 14,876.00
- Rio Grande Connections Mini-grant to research and develop VRI program after which they will do two trials. \$ 7,500.00

Deaf-Blind Services

Community Outreach for the Deaf-NM Deaf-Blind Services program is funded by a contract amendment with CDHH. The contract for deaf-blind services was initially through the Governor's Commission on Disability and was transferred to CDHH this fiscal year. The program director for the COPD-NM Deaf-Blind Services is Larry Rhodes who is working with the Deaf-Blind Services staff and Support Service Providers to follow an in depth overview of the deaf-blind services developed during the FY11 curriculum devotement. The mission of the COPD-NM's Deaf-Blind Services program is to provide services to individuals with deaf-blindness/dual

sensory impairments as well as individuals who are deaf/hard or hearing with disabilities that enable them to live more independent lives and to obtain access to and participate in the community. Larry Rhodes and COPD-NM has developed and helped grow Deaf-Blind Services which include adding more staff and expanding services in the Southern part of New Mexico. The number of deaf-blind and deaf plus SSP users continues to grow and at last glance was at 43 users. Highlights of the work done include a full time job placement of a deaf-blind individual, the development of a deaf-blind taskforce, and a full board of members operating the Zia Deaf-Blind Club.

“I wanted to thank you New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. You have brought hope to my family. I wish I knew this earlier.”

-Name Withheld by Request, Family Member of Deaf Consumer

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT (TTAD) ACTS AS THE INITIAL INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR THE PUBLIC RELATED TO ISSUES OF DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS. TTAD ALSO MANAGES THE NMCDHH WEBSITE AND CREATES ALL PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. PROGRAMS INCLUDE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION AND REFERRAL, TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE.

Training and Development

Information, technical assistance, recommendations and solutions are offered to private and public agencies, professional organizations, businesses and individuals in areas such as assistive technology, the Americans with Disabilities Act, hearing loss awareness, and effective communications. NMCDHH provided at least 15 trainings in 2009.

Outreach

As a one-stop information center for people wanting information on everything from legal requirements to basic hearing loss to accommodations, NMCDHH provides fact sheets, referrals and assistance with identifying appropriate resources. NMCDHH also works closely with other service providers to ensure that information is updated and accurate.

Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program

The Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP) lends telecommunications devices at no cost to qualifying New Mexico residents who need assistance in communicating on the phone. Devices include amplified telephones, TTYs, speech-generating devices, neck loops and silhouettes.

Telecommunications Relay Service

NMCDHH is the administrator for Relay New Mexico as provided by Hamilton Relay. Traditional relay services offered include TTY, voice carry-over, hearing carry-over, speech-to-speech, Spanish and CapTel®. Relay services connect people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or speech disabled to people who use standard telephone equipment. NMCDHH also monitors and implements quality control as regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

“I wanted to let you know I have been a Social Worker with the NMDOH and now with CYFD for the past 24 years and have been to a lot of conferences. I must say this was the best one I have ever attended. I’m not sure how you did it on all of our limited budgets these days, but I for one certainly feel like I got my money’s worth!! The facility and food was lovely. It was well organized and the information available was priceless. Thank you for all of your hard work. I will be sure and attend again next year.

-Jimmie Mitas, CYFD

STAFF MEMBERS

Ellen Roth, Executive Director

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 2012 – Present

Prior to joining the New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Ms. Roth worked at Sorenson Video Relay Services as a Manager and Trainer, and served as a Senior Public Service Administrator at the State of Illinois Department of Human Service's Office of Rehabilitation Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for 10 years. Ellen's focus while there was on increasing job opportunities for the hearing loss community. In addition, Ellen has been a consultant for many years, specializing in removing communication barriers and disability issues. Originally from New York, Ms. Roth was a consultant for deaf and hard of hearing people at NYC's Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities for 5 years. Even while working, Ellen's love for interpreting and theatre never ceased. Ellen began interpreting in 1981 with RID RSC certification and now holds RID CDI & CLIP-R. On a personal side, her passions in life are for equal and ethical treatment towards animals, snow skiing & cycling, theology, foods and art. Lastly, Ms. Roth was ordained as a Rabbi specializing in kabbalah in June 2010.

Joyce Croker, Business Operations Specialist

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 5

Joyce Croker enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and received an Accommodation Medal. Honorably discharged in 1986, she continued her government service by working for the State of New Mexico in several divisions, including the Attorney General's office. At NMCDHH, she handles payments, purchase orders, vouchers and contracts, and also serves as vehicle coordinator and payroll coordinator.

Lisa Dignan, Director of Communication Access and Development
Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 5

Lisa Dignan directs the New Mexico Mentoring program for signed language interpreters and administers a variety of contracts and programs to improve access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. She relocated to Albuquerque in 2007 after serving as the disability services coordinator at Laramie County Community College in Wyoming for 13 years. A nationally certified interpreter with over 20 years of experience and a lengthy history in the independent living movement, Lisa serves on the New Mexico Court Interpreter Advisory Committee and the New Mexico Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Professional Development Committee. She earned a master's degree in adult education from the University of Wyoming and has RID certifications in interpretation and transliteration.

Tim Farr, Service Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 1

Timothy Farr comes to the Commission with a diverse background centered on Deafness and Hearing Loss. Tim has been working as a Certified Signed Language Interpreter for the past 22 years and is an active member of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities alike. During this time, he has also worked at The New Mexico School for the Deaf as a dorm counselor and as a Parent Advisor for the Step*Hi Program providing Early Intervention services to families with young children. Tim holds a Bachelors Degree of Science in Education, majoring in Communication Disorders with an emphasis in audiology and utilizes that knowledge-base as a Service Coordinator with the Las Cruces office.

Nathan Gomme, Interim Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 4

Nathan Gomme received his bachelor's degree with university honors from Gallaudet University. His experience includes mental health and education, and he has been involved with several different committees such as Transition Connections, Statewide Transition Coordination Council, and Behavioral Health Task Force.

Corina Gutierrez, Service Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 5

Corina Gutierrez plans, advocates and coordinates services to meet clients' needs. Corina previously worked at New Mexico School for the Deaf, her alma mater, as a student life educator, and also worked at the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind as a master teaching parent. She received a bachelor's degree in physical education from Gallaudet University. As a New Mexico native, Corina attended the New Mexico School for the Deaf for most of her education, and is a renowned basketball player who was part of the Deaflympics women's basketball team. She also serves as the American Sign Language coordinator and teacher at the Deaf Culture Center.

Sam Martinez, Information and Referral Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 7

Sam Martinez was previously the Hard of Hearing Specialist at NMCDHH. With a bachelor's degree in human services from the University of Phoenix, Sam has extensive experience in working with the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA) communities.

Lori Neubauer, Administrative Assistant

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 6

Lori Neubauer studied American Sign Language and Deaf culture at the University of New Mexico. She then worked as an interpreter coordinator at Community Outreach Program for the Deaf prior to working at NMCDHH. The mother of three boys, her youngest son is Deaf and attends the New Mexico School for the Deaf.

Cheryl Padilla, Service Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 4

Cheryl L. Padilla became interested in working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children while earning her degree from University of New Mexico. She worked at the New Mexico School for the Deaf and at Desert Hills. She continued working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children as a program coordinator at La Familia Inc., where she created programs to help clients

live independently. At NMCDHH, Cheryl helped bring people together to establish the New Mexico Abused Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Center, Inc., also known as New Mexico Signs of Hope.

Deborah Romero, Management Analyst

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 4

Deborah Romero works with budget requests, management, accounts receivable and accounts payable. With over 11 years in government service, Deborah previously worked as the director of a private preschool. She attended the University of New Mexico, and is a certified emergency medical technician and Santa Fe County firefighter.

Michelle Rupanovic, Signed Language Interpreter

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: ½

Michelle A. Rupanovic is nationally certified through Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) at the NIC - Master level. Originally from Austin, Texas, Michelle began providing interpreting services in central Texas in 2001. Michelle obtained her Associates and Bachelors degrees in Interpretation at Austin Community College in 2003 and St. Edward's University in 2004, respectively. Subsequently, she completed a Masters degree at Gallaudet University in Washington DC, the nation's premiere institution for Deaf Studies and Interpretation. Michelle specializes in American Sign Language/English Interpretation and Transliteration.

Jason Siergey, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Specialist

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 1

Jason Siergey is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and received his degrees from the National Technological Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York and DeVry University. Jason has 20 years of experience in the Information Systems field and has combined that with his interest in Human Services to best serve the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and Speech Disabled of New Mexico.

Shannon E. Smith, Director of Telecommunications & Technical Assistance/Relay Administrator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 7

Shannon Smith, a Chicago native, relocated to New Mexico 18 years ago. She graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Masters in Business Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources Management. Shannon brought an extensive Human Resources background to the NMCDHH, and applied it for the last seven years in multiple positions within the Agency. Hard of Hearing since the age of 20, Shannon strives to promote, protect and preserve the rights and quality of life among Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in New Mexico.

Rhiannon Sykes-Chavez, Training and Development Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: ½

Rhiannon Sykes-Chavez is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Albuquerque. Rhiannon is a nationally certified Sign Language Interpreter through Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) at the NIC - Master level. She obtained her Bachelors of Science in Interpretation at the University of New Mexico in 2006. Rhiannon is now applying her skills and experiences to a new scope of work; one which promotes awareness and education about the culture and resources of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities of New Mexico.

Sandra Williams, Las Cruces Coordinator

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 6

Sandra Williams has 20 years of experience as a vocational rehabilitation counselor working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons. Her areas of expertise include counseling, advocacy, case management and sensitivity training. In addition to teaching American Sign Language at El Paso Community College and New Mexico State University, Sandra has served on numerous community programs and boards such as the New Mexico School for the Deaf Board of Regents, New Mexico State University Deaf Education Graduate Program, CPS Millwood Psychiatric Hospital and Rio Grande

Community Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Sandra is also the parent of three children with hearing loss.

Alexis Zarret, Administrative Assistant/Signed Language Interpreter

Years with the Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing: 3

Alexis Zarret fell in love with American Sign Language after taking a class at New Mexico State University. After encouragement from one of her teachers, Alexis enrolled in an interpreter training program in order to become a professional Signed Language Interpreter. While in her last year in the program, she was fortunate enough to become an intern under Sandra Williams in the NMCDHH Las Cruces office where she learned an immense amount about interpreting, advocacy and client services. Eventually she was hired as the Administrative Assistant/ Signed Language Interpreter for the Las Cruces office. Alexis feels fortunate to be a part of such a talented and dedicated team.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Mark Apodaca, Chair

~Deaf or Hard of Hearing Professional

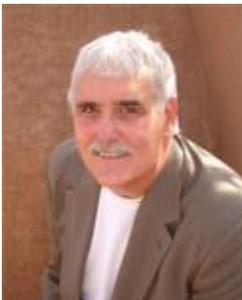
Mark Apodaca has been a member of the commission board since 2007. He has long been involved with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, having served on various local, state, and national nonprofit organization boards. Since moving to New Mexico in 2006, Mark has been working for the New Mexico School for the Deaf as its Director of Business and Finance.



Ronald Stern

~Superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf

Ronald Stern, Ed.D., grew up in New York City attending a variety of schools, then earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Gallaudet University. He went on to earn a master's degree in deaf education from California State University, Northridge. Prior to his current position as superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf, Ronald taught science and English to middle and high school students at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside, Berkeley and Fremont. He also served as the middle school principal and, after a one-year stint as Gallaudet's athletic director, as the director of instruction at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. Over the years, Ron has served in numerous voluntary capacities in the Deaf community and community at large. He and his wife Hedy are the proud parents of three Deaf adults.



James DeBee

~President of the New Mexico Association of the Deaf

James R. DeBee is the founder of DeBee Communications, Inc., a company that produces documentaries, talk shows, commercials, various programs and educational videotapes. In addition, DeBee Communications provides captioning and educational technology services. He holds a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film from California State University, Northridge, and a degree in media communications from Rochester Institute of Technology. He also has master's degree in educational technology

management and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. An Emmy-award winning executive producer with over 30 years of video/film experience, James has worked in many different capacities: producing, directing, writing, editing, photography, media, educational technology and business consultation. In addition, he has served in the Deaf Community for many years in various roles. He is currently President of the New Mexico Association of the Deaf. He served as Advisory Member of the Advisory Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for Pennsylvania Governor. He was a Board Member, Vice President, and President of the Pennsylvania Society of the Advancement for the Deaf. He also served as Chair of Communication, Access & Technology for Pennsylvania Society of the Advancement for the Deaf. He was President of the Western PA School for the Deaf Alumni Association.



Debbie Hambel

*~Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Division
Representative*

Debbie Hambel graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a bachelors and masters degree in vocational rehabilitation. Prior to moving from Colorado to New Mexico she worked as a group home residential counselor serving Deaf Developmentally Disabled Adults, before moving to employment as a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the Co. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Upon moving to New Mexico in 1993, Debbie was employed as a vocational counselor at a local provider agency in Albuquerque and worked for several years as a case manager for UNM Mental Health Center. In 2001, Debbie was hired as a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation where she currently serves as the Supported Employment - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coordinator.

David Romine, Vice-Chair

~Deaf or Hard of Hearing Representative from Northern New Mexico

David R. Romine is the vice president of the New Mexico chapter of Hands and Voices, a non-biased group for parents of Deaf or Hard of Hearing children. He recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of New Mexico.

Vacant

~Deaf or Hard of Hearing Representative from Southern New Mexico

~Parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child

BUDGET

FY11 House Bill 2 Budget	
Category 200 Salaries	\$971,100.00
Category 300 Contracts	\$1,847,300.00
Category 400 Other	\$292,800.00
Category 500 Interagency Transfers	\$576,800.00
Total	\$3,688,000.00
FY12 House Bill 2 Budget	
Category 200 Salaries	\$975,300.00
Category 300 Contracts	\$2,105,400.00
Category 400 Other	\$272,600.00
Category 500 Interagency Transfers	\$466,000.00
Total	\$3,819,300.00

STATISTICS

WHY DOES NEW MEXICO NEED NMCDHH?

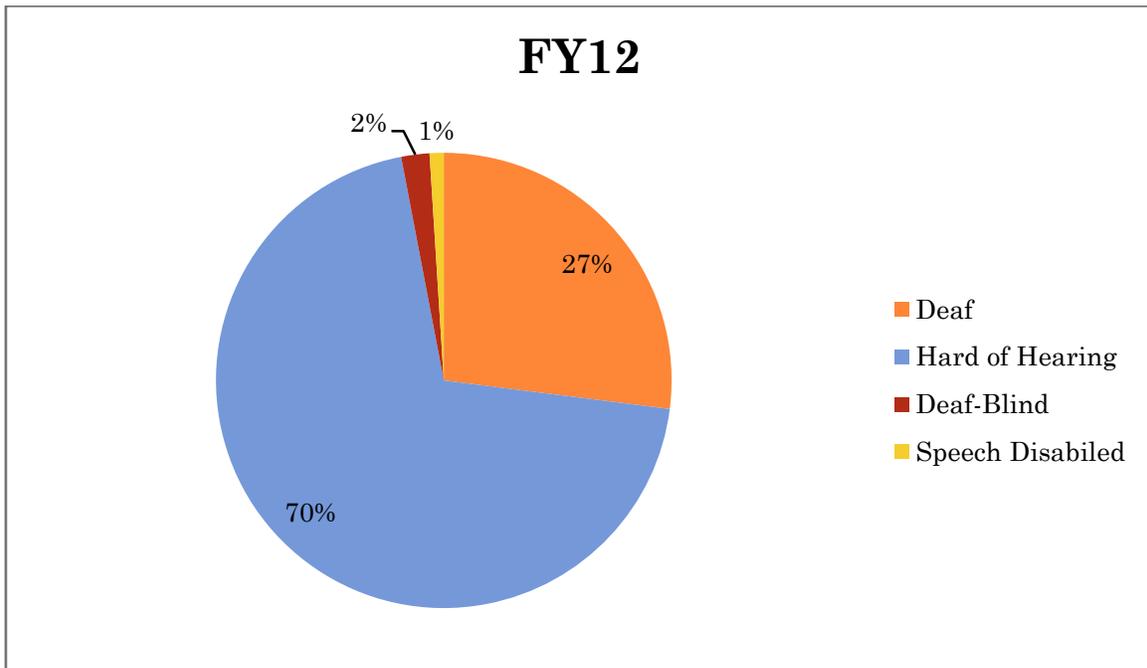
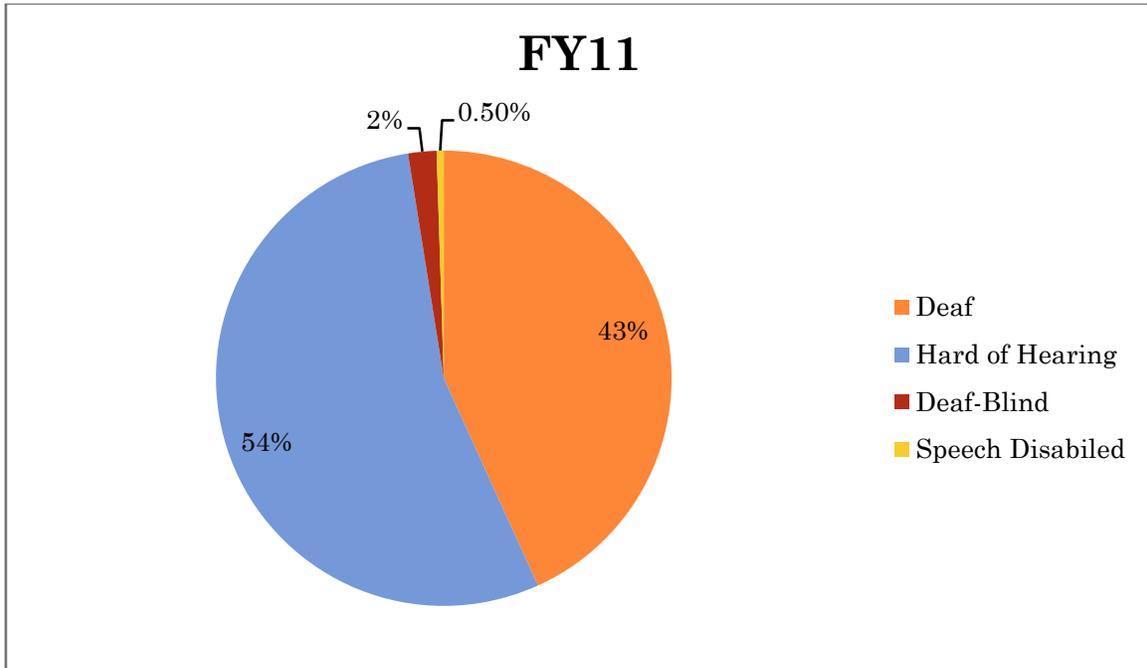
- Three out of 1000 newborns are diagnosed with hearing loss
- One out of 10 people experience hearing loss during their life
- One out of three senior citizens have hearing loss
- There are more than 250,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals throughout the state

CURRENTLY IN NEW MEXICO:

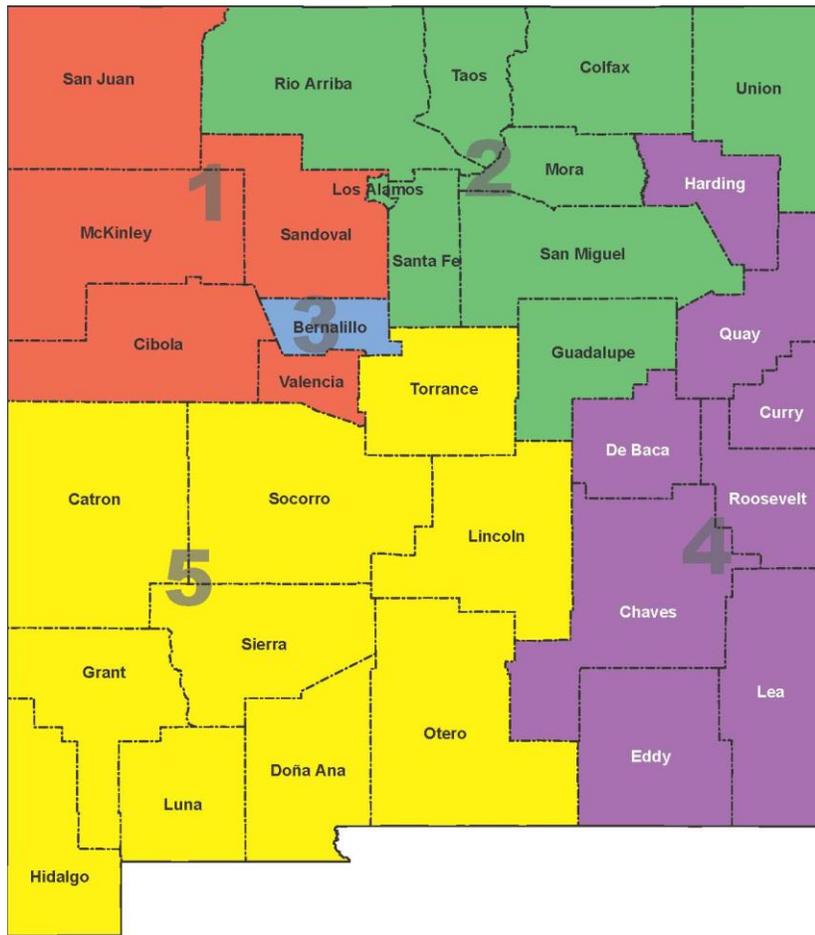
- Total Population of New Mexico: 2,009,671
- Total Population with some form of Hearing Loss: 261,257 (or 13% of the total population of 2,009,671)
- Total Deaf: 4,421 (or 0.22% of the total population of 2,009,671)
- Total Hard of Hearing: 245,179 (or 12.2% of the total population of 2,009,671)
- Total with Mild & Moderate Hearing Loss: 200,967 (or 10% of the total population of 2,009,671)
- Total with Severe & Profound Hearing Loss: 44,212 (or 2.2% of the total population of 2,009,671)



Total Clients by Disability



Total Clients by Region



	FY11	FY12	Total by Region
Region 1	96	95	191
Region 2	65	107	172
Region 3	240	397	637
Region 4	101	100	201
Region 5	245	298	543
Total by Fiscal Year	747	997	1744

CONTACT INFORMATION

Albuquerque Office

Mailing & Physical Address

2500 Louisiana Blvd
Suite 400
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone Numbers

V/TTY: 1.505.881.8824
VP: 1.505.435.9319
Toll Free: 1.800.489.8536

Fax: 1.505.881.8831

Las Cruces Office

Mailing Address

101 N. Alameda Suite 4
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Physical Address

304 W. Griggs
Suite 4
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Phone Numbers

V: 1.575.525.1036
TTY: 1.575.525.1027
VP: 1.575.541.3403
Fax: 1.575.525.1039

FOLLOW THE NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR DEAF &
HARD OF HEARING

