

# **Chronological Highlights of Utah's Sanderson Community Center**

**Compiled by Marilyn T. Call**

## **1983:**

- Obtained the Utah Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing facility in Bountiful.
- First Director, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson.
- Second Director, Beth Ann Stewart Campbell.

## **1988:**

- Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was created as a line item in the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation budget. Formerly known as the "Deaf Unit" under the Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Division can be awarded funding for specific use for services to individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Rehabilitation's "Deaf Unit" supervisor position is changed to become the Division Director and Gene Stewart is hired.

## **9/1992:**

- Director of community center position changes to Program Director for the new division. Marilyn Call is hired for this position when Beth Ann Stewart Campbell retires.
- The Taylorsville Center finally opened in September after months of delays. A total of only 9 staff was a little small for such a big building.
- Funding is obtained for an evening Program Assistant to keep the facility open Tuesday through Friday evenings, and on Saturdays, for clients to use the facility for meetings, social and recreational activities.

### **1993:**

- Funding obtained for Counselor for the Deaf; the only full-time ASL-fluent LCSW is hired and the Case Management program begins.
- Legislative Task Force set up to study ASL as a foreign language/certification of interpreters.

### **1994:**

- Funding obtained for Youth and Family Program.
- Deaf Connection program was established pairing families with Deaf children with other families and Deaf adults.
- Two very important Bills passed:
  - SB41 Certification of Interpreters
  - SB42 Teaching American Sign Language – given equal status with other linguistic systems in Public and Higher Education systems.
  - Funding allocated for three new interpreter positions under DSDHH

### **1995:**

- Circle of Friends program is established with grant funding serving individuals with multiple disabilities including some hearing loss.

### **1996:**

- Gene Stewart retires as Division Director.
- Rusty Wales appointed as new Division Director.

### **1997:**

- Permanent funding is obtained for the Hard of Hearing program and a full-time Hard of Hearing Specialist is hired.

### **1998:**

- Funding for an Adult Community Education program is obtained and a Coordinator hired to plan classes and workshops.

**1999:**

- Funding for a full-time Outreach Specialist is obtained. The Outreach and Technology program is established.

**2001:**

- Groundbreaking for new wing.
- Case Management services established.
- Popcorn Coalition was established (later re-named Utah-CAN).
- Statewide 4% budget cuts.
- Marilyn Call appointed as Division Director.

**2002:**

- New wing opens adding a Lecture Hall, large classroom, four offices, an 8-cubicle office and work area, storage and restrooms.
- WROCC program is established through grant funding.

**2003:**

- More statewide budget cuts – Youth and Family program is eliminated.
- The formerly known Utah Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is renamed the Sanderson Community Center. Over 1,000 people were in attendance at the renaming ceremony honoring Robert and Mary Sanderson.

**2004:**

- Additional funding obtained from the 2004 Utah Legislature to create a satellite office in Southern Utah in St. George. Ronald C. Burdett was appointed as a new coordinator of the Southern Utah Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program under DSDHH on June 24, 2004.
- Norman Williams retires as Building and Grounds Supervisor, Adam Shewell hired.

## **2005:**

- Funding for a second position in the newly created satellite office is awarded for a secretary/interpreter.
- The Hard of Hearing Specialist trains part-time staff to provide community education classes in various areas across the state including: Living with Hearing Loss (for both the person with loss, friends and family), Coping Skills for persons with hearing loss (dealing more with the emotional impact), Lipreading and Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE) classes.
- The office at the Southern Utah Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs was open on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **2006:**

- Interpreter Certification Advancement Network (ICAN) interpreter mentoring program is established.
- Blaine Petersen retires as Executive Director of USOR, Don Uchida appointed.
- Tragic vehicle accident involving three DSDHH employees happens on October 18 with one fatality: Glenn Williams, Electronics Specialist. Mitch Moyers, Outreach Specialist, and Adam Shewell, Building and Grounds Supervisor are injured. While Adam is able to return after some time to recuperate, Mitch's injuries are quite extensive which will take years for surgeons to repair his legs.
- Funding is obtained for Southern Utah Program Director position, Emily Tanner is hired.

## **2007:**

- Sanderson Community Center among sponsors International Deaflympics. DSDHH staff contributes many hours of service.
- Funding is obtained for second Case Manager position. A Case Manager, Kim Thornsberry, is hired in addition to two existing mental health counselors.
- New interpreter position is housed at Sanderson Community Center funded by Vocational Rehabilitation.

**2008:**

- Interpreter Certification Advancement Network (ICAN) interpreter mentoring program receives renewed funding for an additional two year grant. Language Mentor positions are established.
- Master level interpreter certification is eliminated thereby accepting national certification for master level.
- Funding is obtained from the legislature for the Southern Utah office and Peggy Thomson, Hard of Hearing Specialist is hired.
- Permanent funding is obtained and first full-time Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is hired, Trenton Marsh.

**2009:**

- Budget cuts due to economical woes force the Div. of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to not fill several important positions and lay off most part-time people. Existing staff accept the challenge to fulfill the additional duties and work hours of these positions combined with their existing responsibilities.
- Deaf Rally is held and community members successfully lobby legislators to minimize the impact of state-wide budget cuts to the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH). Other agencies took much greater cuts than DSDHH
- The Interpreter Certification Advancement Network (ICAN) developed Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) training provided at no cost.
- The first Deaf and Hard of Hearing Festival (DHHF) was held on Sept. 26, 2009.
- Willis Morton retires as Janitor; Julio Enriquez is hired.

**2010:**

- Huge budget cuts again threatened existing direct services to clients. Vocational Rehabilitation helped to soften the blow to the full state-funded Div. of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Coordinated advocacy resulted in no new cuts, \$52,000 of on-going money was put back in our bare bones budget.

## 2011:

- Community contacts legislators regarding needs for services and the impact on the community. Through a very difficult legislative session, funding was not cut at the last minute and additional funding was received to restore the Director position in St. George.
- Grant Pemberton hired as new Program Director for the Southern Utah Program of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in August, 2011. Now a total of three full-time positions, one part-time activity planner position, and several as needed employees to teach classes in Southern Utah.
- Kathy Evans spearheads an effort to get Computer Aided Real-time Translation (CART) services available to individuals who are Late Deafened and Hard of Hearing.
- DSDHH continued sponsorship of the Utah-CAN. This very active organization's work greatly improves access to captions in movie theaters and for the first time open captions for Broadway Across America productions.
- Marilyn Call worked with Mary Beth Stewart Green and Julie Orchard to pass a telecommunications Bill which extends the surcharge that existed only on landline phones to apply to cell phones for Relay Utah's equipment distribution program.
- Good advocacy kills a Bill to weaken interpreter certification law. This Bill tried to exempt colleges from having to hire certified interpreters.
- Second biannual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Festival was held September 25, 2011 (Marilyn Call, personal interview, January 25, 2012).